

Committee Members

Tina Wright, Co-Chair
Denise Legee, Co-Chair
Charlie Ross, Clerk
Andrea Burke, Member
Laura Connolly, Member
Mike Francis, Member
Jim Wickis, Member
Joanne Williams, Member



TOWN OF MEDWAY COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

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**March 1, 2022 - 7:00 PM
Medway Senior Center
Remote Meeting**

Attendance	Tina Wright	Denise Legee	Charlie Ross	Andrea Burke	Laura Connolly	Mike Francis	Jim Wickis	Joanne Williams
Present	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Legislature's June 16, 2021 enactment of Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, an act extending certain Covid-19 measures adopted during the State of Emergency, under which public bodies retain the option of holding open meetings and hearings remotely until April 1, 2022, and in accordance with the Medway Select Board's remote participation policy as amended at their July 2, 2021 meeting, Open Space Committee members will participate remotely for this meeting. Access via Zoom is provided for public participation for those portions of the meeting open to the public.

Denise called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Tara Rice was also present for the meeting. Tara is interested in joining the Open Space Committee. Tara introduced herself and stated she has been living in Medway for about 9 years. She holds outdoor classes at Choate Park for young students. She would like to get more involved with the community. All of the committee members introduced themselves to Tara.

Brochure Update

- **Layout/verbiage (Laura)**

Laura stated she sent the documents to the group, received comments, and updated the information. She just needs to touch base with Joanne about her input and add the new trail information when that is available.

The committee discussed how many to print. Tina stated they made 1100 copies in the past. The committee discussed this. Charlie said we would probably not want to wait seven years for the next update, so perhaps a smaller quantity might be good.

- **Map (Charlie)**

Charlie had sent out a PDF of the current state of the in-process map. He then shared it on the screen and emphasized that the appearance of the final version, which will be prepared by Fran Hutton Lee, the town's GIS Coordinator, would be different. The focus of the discussion was on the properties.

Charlie shared the map on his screen walked through the added properties.

He added the following town-owned open space parcels: the VFW and the back half of the property of the nursing home; the former Wilson Red Gate farm on Lovering Street; the Williamsburg open space parcel, and the Pine Ridge Drive open space parcel.

He also added the following open space properties not owned by the town: the Millstone Open Space Parcel and the Army Corps of Engineers properties.

In a prior meeting, the committee agreed that The Willows/Salmon property should be included. However, it isn't a separate parcel (either town- or privately-owned). **Action: Charlie will discuss this with Susy Affleck-Childs, Planning & Economic Development Coordinator.**

Charlie added the Christmas Tree Trail, the Community Farm Trail, and the Rail Trail east of Oakland.

He still needs to GPS-capture and add: the new trail around Oakland, the McGovern Trail out to Holliston Street, and the loop at McGovern. He also needs to capture/add the following trails, but would like to walk them with another committee member: Deerfield, as well as whatever Willows trails that have been built so far. **Action: Charlie to do these captures as time permits.**

Mike suggested that the trail from the North Field parking lot be shown connected to the trail that runs from the High School to Summer Street. There was also mention of how the connection from Choate to Main Street is different now, due to the road project, so Charlie should remove the short trail out to Main Street. **Action: Charlie to make these two changes.**

Medway Clean Sweep

Denise stated she spoke to Liz Langley, Administrative Assistant in the Town Manager's office. OSC and the Trail Club will work with Kristen Solera and the Cub Scouts on trash clean-up, some invasive plant trimming, and hauling away plant clippings at Deerfield.

Quick Status Updates

- **Denise**
 - **Announcements and upcoming meetings:**
 - **Conflict of Interest:** Denise confirmed that all present did read and submit the Conflict of Interest form.
 - **Local Cultural Council (LCC) Grant Programming – Mass Audubon Nature In Your Neighborhood:** Denise asked if everyone looked at the email about the program. Do the people at Mass Audubon need anyone to help with education? Tina stated she has not heard anything back from Julie Harrington. If anyone would like to get involved with that let Denise know.
 - **IDEA Committee Feedback Form:** Denise mentioned the email from the IDEA Committee – they asked that we send this out to all the committee members to help get the word out.

- **Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Annual Hearing on March 7th:**
Denise e-mailed this to the OSC as a notification. Tina stated this is just a yearly meeting to reiterate the goals and get feedback from people. Committee members are welcome to come to the meeting, but they don't have to. **Action: Tina will send the Zoom meeting link to the OSC.**
- **Medway Master Plan Task Force (monthly update):**
Denise stated the first focus group was held last week. They had a meeting last night and there will be another one next week. There will be a total of five focus group meetings. On April 5th, there will be a community outreach meeting to discuss the focus group results. We might have to reschedule our April Open Space meeting because it is also on April 5th, but we will try to schedule our meeting after the Master Plan presentation meeting. **Action: Denise will find out more information before we reschedule.**
- **Jim**
 - **Town-wide treatment of invasives (meetings with DPW and ConCom)**
Jim, representing Open Space, met with Bridget Graziano, Conservation Agent, and Pete Pelletier, DPW Director, to discuss invasives. He stated his goals are to increase education about invasives and increase efforts to manage invasives on town lands. Once they become more organized, they can invite other committees. They will need to do some data collection on density levels and types of management at the different locations. They established priority locations around town for invasive management. He had 7 locations on his list and Bridget had 3 - the Amphitheater, Williamsburg, and Bresnahan's Landing. Jim is going to work with Bridget on running outdoor classes to talk about identification and management of invasives. Andrea mentioned the presenter from her garden class suggested planting alternatives such as winterberry where the invasives grow. Jim mentioned this is tough to do on a large scale.
- **Mike**
 - **Open Space Sign for Ohnemus (land ownership, DPW discussion re: parking lot)**
Mike stated he contacted DPW and met with Sean Harrington, DPW Deputy Director, Steve Carew, Parks Superintendent, and Daryl Blethen, Assistant Parks Superintendent. They discussed installing an Open Space sign and defined parking separate from the Police Station. Sean will arrange a meeting with Sergeant Jeffrey Watson of the Police Department. Depending on this conversation, they would have to look into curb cutting, parking lot orientation and drainage etc. Steve thinks Parks and Recreation could help with that. Steve asked if they would want a double-sided sign. The committee discussed this and thought the value wasn't worth the cost. Also, all other Open Space signs on roads are posted parallel to the road.
 - **Amphitheater Alternate Village Street Access (continue discussions with condo owners)**
Mike stated he has nothing new to report on this.

- **Rail Trail east of Oakland (talk with DPW about parking and water station proximity)**

Mike stated Sean will talk with Pete and Barry Cooper, Water & Sewer Superintendent, about this. They discussed fencing, signage, and security cameras. They also looked at potential parking spots. There is room for 2-3 cars at Oakland Street to the side of the rail bed. We need to think ahead so that they can plan for things in their budget.

- **Tina**

- **Trail from Senior Center to Rail Bed (private parcel permissions)**

Tina has a phone number to call.

- **The Willows Trails (schedule walk with Bridget)**

Tina stated they have not been able to walk the trail yet due to the snow.

- **Water Trail (talk with Bridget about getting river cleared)**

Tina stated they have not been able to walk the trail yet due to the snow.

- **Joanne (*Updates provided by Denise*)**

- **Trail maintenance at Millstone Village (coordinate with Bridget and DPW on trail that's the town's responsibility)**

Joanne will give an update at the next meeting.

- **Deerfield Open Space property update**

Denise told the group that another loop trail is being added to the north of the pond. The trail will end up being a figure eight.

- **Trail Safety (follow up with Police Chief)**

Joanne will give an update at the next meeting.

- **Meadow south of Iarussi (dead tree removal)**

Denise stated Steve Carew did remove the dead trees and cleaned up the area.

- **Laura**

- **Additional locations for trail rules signs**

Laura stated this item can be removed from the agenda

Approval of Minutes: • February 1, 2022

Tina made a motion to approve the February 1, 2022, meeting minutes with one comment by Denise. Andrea seconded the motion and Charlie, Tina, Jim, Laura, Mike, Andrea, and Denise all stated aye they were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Other items that may come before the committee

Charlie mentioned that Susy told him the town wants to record all of the meetings and post them to a website. Charlie thinks we need to discuss this at another meeting. The committee agreed.

Action: Charlie to add to a subsequent agenda.

Charlie stated the free open-source software he is using does not allow full interaction with the town's professional (and expensive) software. He would like to discuss options for getting access to the same software that Fran uses. Tina suggested this be discussed. **Action: Charlie will discuss this with Susy.**

April Meeting – Next month's meeting will be via Zoom.

Adjourn

Charlie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 pm. Tina seconded the motion. Tina, Jim, Mike, Laura, Charlie, Andrea, and Denise all stated they were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tracy Rozak