

Committee Members

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



TOWN OF MEDWAY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Medway Town Hall
155 Village Street
Medway, MA 02053
Telephone (508) 321-4890
Email: openspacecommittee
@townofmedway.org
www.townofmedway.org

Tuesday, June 6, 2023 – 7:00 PM
Medway Senior Center
76 Oakland Street
Medway MA 02053

| Attendance | Tina Wright | Denise Legee | Charlie Ross | Andrea Burke | Laura Connolly | Mike Francis | Tara Rice | Jim Wickis | |
|------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|------------|--|
| Present | x | x | x | x | | | x | x | |

Denise called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

- **Announcements and upcoming meetings (Denise)**

No meetings or announcements.

- **Conflict of Interest updates**

All done except possibly Mike.

- **Action Item Follow-Ups**

- **Ohnemus DPW discussions re: parking lot – meeting with Town Manager (Mike)**

Denise stated Mike has been really busy so she is going to talk to Michael Boynton, Town Manager, about the placement of the parking lot; it will only be 3-4 gravel spaces.

Action Item: Denise will talk to Michael Boynton about the placement of the parking lot.

- **Easements for access on private property (Survey updates for Oakland and Adams Streets) (Tina)**

Denise spoke to Charlotte Lee and Tina spoke to both people at Oakland Street. One owner was concerned about liability. Tina explained if the town gets the easement there will be no liability for him. Tina will get this confirmed in writing. **Action Item: Tina will try to identify the areas and schedule the surveys.**

- **Follow-up meeting on trail maintenance with DPW (Tina)**

Tina spoke to MaryJane White, Select Board, and Peter Pelletier, DPW Director. Peter stated the trail maintenance was on the list and he was surprised the Adams meadow did not get mowed on time last year. He said if we notice something is not getting done to please let him know. Jim stated he has mowed the amphitheater a few times and mentioned there are half a dozen other spots that need to get mowed regularly. Tina stated that Peter mentioned he does have four unfilled positions to fill. Denise thinks we need better coordination with Peter. Denise stated we are the ones that walk on the trails, we could notify him when something needs to get done. Tina stated no, Peter should not rely on us to tell him and this should be done regularly. It was noted that it's already June and it seems as if nothing has been done yet. The Amphitheater needs to be mowed and several trails are overgrown (e.g., Summer Street to the High School). Tina noticed the trail from Lovering Street toward the Boardwalk is overgrown with a lot of poison ivy. If these areas get too overgrown in the spring it becomes a major project to try to maintain them in the summer. **Action Item: Tina will send an email to Peter about keeping up with the identified trail maintenance tasks.**

- **Water trail, including boat launch at Salmon (Andrea, Tina)**

Andrea stated Bridget Graziano, Conservation Agent gave her a few large maps that she showed to the committee members during the meeting. Tina stated we need the plans for the Neelon Lane Development and the town land around it including the streets. Tina stated the town was given land as a result of the Neelon Lane project and some of this land goes down to the river. Access is difficult and there is no parking area for it. If we can get a good map of this area, we may be able to figure out a way in and a parking area. Tina is going to try to kayak to the Shaw Street property. Tina stated it would be ideal if you could kayak/canoe upstream from the Amphitheater and have several canoe launches all the way until reaching the falls that are adjacent to Ohnemus landing. We may also be able to work with Franklin to have landings on their side of the river.

- **Follow-up on expiring 2023 funding (Denise)**

Denise stated we have three weeks to spend the funds before they expire. The shed for storing trail supplies at Adams Street Meadow has been ordered and it was ~\$4,800. Denise would like to buy some extra tools because some volunteers don't have their own or the right ones for some work. Jim is looking at purchasing tree trail signs. Denise will order several of the two-foot-long trail directional signs and others that show distances to the other trails and landmarks. Denise will also order some "Dog on Leash" signs for the main entrance points to trails. Tina thought we could purchase a bench or two if there are any leftover funds. Tina also suggested ordering some permanent "you are here" signs but those will take longer to get. **Action: Denise to place orders.**

- **Letter of appreciation to Susy Affleck-Childs**

Tina stated she did not write the letter yet but will do it this week and send it to the committee members for review.

- **Safety from animals on trails**

Andrea stated people have mentioned to her that they are concerned about the recent bobcat sighting as well as foxes and coyotes on the trails. Tina stated this is under the authority of Animal Control. Denise suggested Andrea tell people they should make noise (talk or clap) to scare off animals on trails and report sightings to Animal Control.

- **Approval of Minutes: • May 2, 2023**

Tina made a motion to approve the May 2, 2023 Meeting minutes as emailed to the committee on 5/26. Andrea seconded the motion and all members stated aye and the minutes were approved.

- **Other items that may come before the committee**

Andrea mentioned the people that ran the trail conference are looking for committee members to share ideas from their Open Space Committee. **Action: Andrea will forward the email to the other committee members.**

Charlie asked when the work will be completed at the Adams Street Meadow on the ADA trail. Denise stated it must be done by the end of 2023 but they are trying to get it done sooner. There will be two handicap accessible parking spaces. A brief discussion ensued. Tina expressed concern that the design had deviated from what had been discussed. Several members commented that the platform was built in a different place than had been requested by the committee. The trail is very elevated, which was unexpected; Jim was told that was done to avoid having to bring in an archeologist if any digging was performed. There was a brief discussion on how to ensure that future projects proceed as originally planned. Charlie suggested that any future committee approval for grant application or project should be made contingent on OSC having to approve any changes.

Charlie will contact Jacob Frankel, the new GIS Coordinator to introduce himself and let him know about on-going projects. **Action item: Charlie will send an email to Jacob.**

Charlie mentioned the town is planning to fill Susy's position. He also stated the link for the open space email used to go to just Susy. It should go to Denise, Tina, Barbara, and Anna. Denise is not getting the emails. **Action Item: Charlie will follow up with IT about the link not working properly.**

Allison Potter referred a Girl Scout that is doing her Silver Award project to the Open Space Committee. The Medway Community Farm is looking for owl, duck, and bird houses and also to extend the trail at the Community Farm. She might be interested in doing something with invasives. Jim mentioned there is information on invasives on the Open Space web page and he could also do a class on invasives with them.

The next Open Space Committee meeting will be on August 1, 2023 (skipping July).

- **Adjourn**

Charlie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. Tina seconded the motion and all the members stated aye they were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tracy Rozak