

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
Joanne Williams, Member



TOWN OF MEDWAY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

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January 3, 2023 – 7:00 PM
Remote Meeting

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

Denise called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and did a roll call. Tina, Tara, Andrea, Laura, Charlie, Jim and Denise all stated they were present. Mike checked in a 7:03 pm.

Quick Status Updates

• Denise • Announcements and upcoming meetings • Salmon/Willows trail

Denise sent out the flooding notification from Bridget Graziano that we were asked to look at as individuals not a committee. Please send Bridget any comments by tomorrow.

Denise stated she walked the Salmon Willows trail with the Facilities Manager and stated they cleared near the Charles River and will clear some more over to the canoe launch. They are going to put two kiosks and two open space signs up at the trail head and the canoe launch. Two more will go off to the side where the houses are going in.

• Laura • Any updates as appropriate

Laura stated all the verbiage for the Open Space Brochure is the same. She and Charlie worked on updating the numbering to be more sequential.

Action Item: Laura will send out the updated copy to the committee.

• Charlie • Any updates as appropriate

Charlie stated he made contact with the new GIS Coordinator in town and unless anyone has any changes he will work with the GIS Coordinator. Charlie stated he left Redgate on the map but did not label it, as the committee had previously discussed.

- **Jim/Andrea • Mass Trails Conference on November 12th**

Andrea stated she went to the conference in Fitchburg. She has lots of handouts that might be useful. There is a historic timeline of when and how trails got established. She found there are a lot of resources available to us. Jim stated his focus was to learn about interpretive signs and education and focus on educating the public on open space areas.

- **Town-wide treatment of invasives**

Jim mentioned the Department of Conservation and Recreation have a system of rating habitats across the state called BIO Map. The state is urging towns to conserve as many areas as possible. He is going to study it more and discuss it with Bridget Graziano, Conservation Agent and get back to the committee about what this means for the town.

- **Mike • Ohnemus DPW discussions re: parking lot**

Mike stated that at the November meeting they discussed connecting with Bridget monthly. He was not able to do that in December but would like to do so in the future. The phone meetings are the 2nd Wednesday at 3:30 pm. Mike will be on the next call and will discuss the next steps for parking and installing the sign.

- **Amphitheater Alternate Village Street Access (continue discussions with condo owners)**

Mike stated he did not have an update. Tina stated she spoke with one of the condo owners and she told them she would try to map out the trail and bring it to the condo association. Mike, Jim, Andrea and Denise will meet this Saturday at 11am, at the town hall and go for a site walk flag a possible trail.

- **Rail Trail east of Oakland – action item regarding other towns' practices**

Mike did not have anything to report but he observed a local person is parking his truck there and possibly hunting there.

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

Tina stated the owners of #70 and # 58 Oakland Street said they would be willing to give them an easement. Tina stated that Michael Boynton, Town Administrator said if it's a gift from them we can't tell them how to give it to us.

- **Legal guidance on an easement vs. access on private property**

Tina is meeting with Susy Affleck-Childs, Planning and Economic Development Coordinator, and Barbara Saint Andre, Director of Community and Economic Development tomorrow to discuss how they should word the easement language and what they need to do to move forward.

- **Joanne • Action item to follow up with Assistant Town Manager about the form to review proposed volunteer projects**

Joanne was absent from this meeting. Denise stated Joanne did send the forms to Allison Potter, Assistant Town Manager but she is not sure where this stands.

- **Joanne • Action item to speak with the Town Manager and DPW Director regarding trail maintenance**

No Update

- **Trail at Choate Trail Subdivision connecting to High School to Choate Trail**

Choate Trail subdivision. Denise stated the PEDB wanted to make sure there was an easement to the main trail. There is a 15 foot easement. The trail will meander within the 15-foot easement and connect to the original Choate Trail near the baseball field. This will be more of a natural dirt trail and they won't be taking down any large trees. This trail is really for the people that live in the development. Charlie stated the trail will hug the new landowner's side of the easement. Mike asked if the town will be able to maintain the trail. Denise said she thinks so, but this was not discussed. Denise stated stairs will be needed to access the trail because there is a drop off. Charlie stated this is privately funded on a private road. Denise stated a letter of support from the Open Space Committee is needed stating we support the idea of the trail and connecting to the other trails.

Denise made a motion that she draft a letter to the Planning Board stating the Open Space Committee discussed the Choate Trail Subdivision at the January 3, 2023 meeting and are in strong support of the proposed trail at the Choate Trail Subdivision. Charlie seconded the motion and Mike, Laura, Tara, Tina, Jim, Charlie, Andrea and Denise all stated aye they were in favor and the motion was approved.

Action- Denise will write the letter to the Planning Board (PEDB)

- **Discussion on potential projects that will require funding**

Denise stated there is \$10,000 in the omnibus budget for trail maintenance which has a limited life, ending in June. Denise stated \$1500 went to the Bridges Festival and a couple hundred for the posts for open space signs. There is ~\$17,500 in CPC funds, \$5,000 was added to it this year and money gets added every year at Town meeting. This money does not go away and must go to building of trails. We might want to spend some of this on the ADA trail for a cover to go over the viewing platform. Another older fund for trail identification /signage interpretive signs etc. has about \$ 1,300 left in it.

The committee discussed possible projects to use the funds on:

- Some of the handmade signs and posts are rotting and could be replaced.

- Putting down stone dust at the Amphitheater to the Canoe Launch to create a more accessible trail and a small bridge across the low area.
- Interpretive signage
- For the parcel below Massapoag street (near Charles River Tennis Club) - parking area and clearing to get to the Charles River.
- Costs associated with the easement including an easement sign.
- More “dogs on leash” signs
- Advertising for Medway Pride Day.
- Printing and laminating of the new if they are ready in time.
- Advertising for some of the summer or winter activities that we sponsor.
- A covered roof for a sign describing the history of the mills at the Amphitheater. Tina stated that the Historical Commission should be responsible for that and she will ask Barbara Saint Andre and Susy Affleck Childs about it tomorrow.

Action Item: Tina will check about funding at her next CPC meeting.

Action Item: Denise will look into which of the funds could be used for these projects

• Committee inputs on changes to Open Space page on town website

Charlie stated he sent this out in November and again last week. We already discussed a link for email to report trail problems, a link for general questions. We do have a link and it goes right to Susy Affleck-Childs so we would have to coordinate with her how best to handle that. Charlie suggested separating the private and public committees. The Conway School report and the Open Space 5 year plan can come off. It was suggested they be moved to an archive section.

Action: Charlie will proceed as time permits.

• Communications and Volunteers

Laura stated this is about the work on the trails by the Trail Club. Laura stated we as a committee should be privy to this information. Tina stated that at the last meeting, Bridget Graziano independently emailed Laura’s husband and said she was working on a proposal with the Open Space Committee. Laura stated this is not true as she is on the Open Space Committee and knows nothing about this.

Charlie was not aware that Bridget was working on any policies. Tina asked if we would like Bridget to come and present it to our committee. Charlie thinks we should have a meeting with her before it goes to the Select and Planning boards. Laura stated that we would see the draft before it was approved then we were told we would not see it. Tina will confirm with Bridget that it will not be voted upon until she presents it at our February meeting. Charlie recommended asking to see it regardless of the draft state it is in.

Action Item: Tina will write an email to Bridget and cc the committee asking Bridget to attend the next OSC meeting before the draft gets approved.

- **Water Trail (Joanne and Andrea)**

Andrea stated Joanne tried to meet with Martha Garley, GIS Coordinator but was not able to and will continue to try and meet with her again. Andrea has the Street names from the assessor. Joanne has some maps that she can show to the committee at the next meeting.

- **Approval of Minutes: • November 1, 2022**

Tina made a motion to approve the November 1, 2022 meeting minutes as amended. Denise seconded the motion and Laura, Tina, Tara, Jim, Andrea, Mike, Charlie and Denise all stated aye they were in favor and the meeting minutes were approved.

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

None

- **Adjourn**

Charlie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm. Tina seconded the motion and Jim, Tina, Tara, Mike, Andrea, Laura, Charlie and Denise all stated aye they were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tracy Rozak