

## Committee Members

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



# TOWN OF MEDWAY

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

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## OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

**Tuesday, April 2, 2024 - 7:00 PM**  
**Medway Senior Center**  
**75 Oakland Street**  
**Medway MA 02053**

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

**Denise called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.**

### **• Bench installation and trail maintenance updates (Denise)**

Denise stated she talked to Steve Carew, Parks Superintendent, and she showed him where the bench needs to go near the Boots & Bonnets Bridge opposite the sign. Denise stated she also talked to him about putting more material on the trail where some spots have washed out. Steve told her this was on his list of his things to do,

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

Denise stated Mike told her he is still working on this.

### **• Access on private property (Survey on Adams Street, agreements on Oakland Street) (Tina)**

Tina referenced the letter she received from the Town Council. Tina stated we are concerned what will happen if the Lee property is sold. We have a letter of understanding but an easement would go with the property if it was sold. Denise stated maybe the town does have access in an emergency but if we want to have an event there we would need an easement. We also have to be sure where our property ends. Jim stated the town owns 3/4ths of the pond and the Lee's own 1/4<sup>th</sup>. **Action Item: Tina will try to get a letter of understanding with the two people on Oakland Street. Tina will email Mark Reich, Town Council and copy Barbara St. Andre saying we understand we can access the property now but if the property sells, we wouldn't legally be able to use it for events and maintenance unless the town wants to pursue an easement.**

## • Rezoning articles and Betania II (Denise and Tina)

Denise explained the state is being really forceful with the towns that are not doing much for the MBTA zoning. The town is afraid if they don't do the rezoning their relationship with the state will be in jeopardy and grant Funds could be at risk. The town is identifying a few possible areas, one is adjacent to the 40B and the old apartment building on Route 109. The second area is the Betania property on the West side near the building along Summer Street. Denise stated she let them know that the Open Space Committee wants to have continued access from Idylbrook to Wenakeening Woods and the rail trail.

## • Water trail (Andrea, Tina)

Tina stated she thinks we should continue with the grant as we have a lot of really nice areas. Tina spoke to the VP of Beales & Thomas, Inc. and asked if they could give us an estimate for the work. Andrea stated she took a tour of the property with Tina, Jim and Bridget Graziano, Conservation Agent. Bridget had a key to the gate to the water access road that the Water Department uses. They walked through the area and it was very nice and had nice areas to put in benches. If the Water Department would leave the gate open for the Open Space Committee, we could put a small parking lot there and have access to the canoe launch. We could also do a canoe launch from Shaw Street. There are two parcels owned by Generazio that would be great for trails. Tina had a rough map of the area and pointed out some of the areas along the river. The committee discussed possibilities for canoe launch areas:

- The old rail bed over by West Street.
- Waterview is wet and not doable.
- Ohnemus / Police Station- Does this property go past the dam? Or can we work with Franklin to use their side for canoe portage?
- Shaw Street- we own the two properties right on the road, the three lots behind it are owned by Generazio. Could put a trail or picnic area there.
- The Salmon property which we have access to but may have to move the canoe launch down a little bit as it is unusable now
- There is a big area below Charles View Lane (extension to Neelon Lane) which has no parking and is really steep. Is it less steep on the other side? Great landing spot and picnic area.
- There is a tiny triangle parcel owned by someone that could be used for parking. Check with Charles River Tennis Club- for one parking spot there. The Amphitheater- need to finalize the trail to the river and improve the canoe launch.
- Town Hall – Boczanowski land - drainage needs to be fixed before we can get a trail in That would be for additional parking and access from Village Street.
- The Water Department owns a lot of land on the other side of the river. There is a skinny piece that goes to the road that has a nice driveway. There is a Water Department building there that could have a gravel parking lot with a canoe launching spot. This is the area that OSC members toured, mentioned above.
- Norfolk and Millis have river access that we might be able to tie into.

**Action Item: Tina will continue to do more research and work with the town to refine the map.**

- **Medway Clean Sweep (Saturday, April 27)**

The Open Space Committee and Trail Club will be working with the Cub Scouts at Choate Park pulling garlic mustard. Denise will look into getting juice and munchkins for the Cub Scouts.

- **Burke/Memorial Outdoor Classroom (Tara)**

Tara stated she took a tour of the outdoor classroom with Mr. Terzigni, Vice Principal of the Burke-Memorial School. There is an old entry way that they closed off and will use for the outdoor classroom. Tara stated they are planning to put a roof on it but instead of waiting for that they will bring the furniture out during April break so it can be used sooner. Teachers can request to use this room.

Tina stated the Community Farm has a 4<sup>th</sup> grade planting that follows the science curriculum. It would be neat if we could do something similar at the outdoor classroom.

- **Approval of Minutes: • March 5, 2024**

***Tina made a motion to approve the March 5, 2024 meeting minutes as amended and Tara seconded the motion. All members stated aye they were in favor and the minutes were approved.***

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

Tina mentioned Dave Travalini, Con Comm Chair, spoke to her about the possibility of having a micro forest somewhere in town. They would like to get the Trail Club to do the weeding and trail work. Jim gave a brief history about micro forests and stated the goal of a micro forest is to clear the site and plant native trees very close to each other and crowd out the invasives. It would need to be watered for three years and then it should be self-sustainable. Jim stated he will be taking a field trip with ConCom, DPW and Stephanie Carlisle, Sustainability Coordinator to Idyllbrook to see if there would be a good area for a micro forest. Tina stated it would be good to look into this topic more. The town of Weston has a micro forest and we could take a tour to see what it's like.

Andrea asked if we would be having a table at Medway Pride Day. Last year we shared a booth with the Medway Community Farm. Denise stated the Medway Pride Day Committee contacts anyone that participated in the past. It was noted there is not a dedication day set for the ADA trail at the Adams Street meadow yet. They will wait until the grass starts to come in maybe the first two weeks in June.

- **Adjourn**

**Andrea made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 pm. Tara seconded the all members stated aye they were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted by,  
Tracy Rozak