

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, May 7, 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		x

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

Bench installation and maintenance updates

Denise stated the two benches were installed and they look good. The trail from the high school to Choate Park was staying really wet. Denise stated she spoke to Steve Carew, Parks Superintendent and he put down more crusher run in the areas that were really bad. Denise is going to order 2 more benches by the end of this fiscal year. One of the benches will be installed at Idyllbrook overlooking the water.

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

Mike submitted the information about the proposed parking lot to Barbara St. Andre, Director of Community & Economic Development, and she stated that they will have to do an administrative site plan review and gave Mike an application. **Action: Mike will fill out the application and give it to Barbara to give to Michael Boynton, Town Manager for his signature and then present it to the Administrative Site Plan Review committee for approval.**

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

Tina stated she forwarded the email to Barbara St. Andre and asked if this is applicable if the land is sold. Barbara sent it to the town attorney, and he stated the letter from Mrs. Lee is ok to use now but would not transfer with the sale of the property. The town would then not be able to pass through this property to do maintenance without an easement. Denise stated if Police and the DPW can fit their equipment through there now they probably won't want to pursue an easement. **Action: Denise will contact Steve Carew,**

DPW and someone at the Police Department to see how they feel about an easement.

Tina indicated the Oakland Street owners were not anxious to give a deeded easement for Oakland Trail. She did think they would provide written approval to use the land for the trail access. **Action: Tina will follow up to get that permission in writing.**

- **Rezoning articles and Betania II (Denise and Tina)**

Denise stated there will be no update on this until the town meeting next week. Denise stated the town is looking at two parcels along Summer Street on Betania property and an area along 109 near the 40B apartment complex.

- **Water trail (Andrea, Tina)**

Tina stated she does not have any news on the water trail. Tina, Andrea, and Jim will look over the grant application that Jim completed.

Andrea stated she ran into a resident of the Sanford Mill condominiums who stated the residents received a letter stating the dam has been rated very poorly. The concern is they might get rid of the dam. **Action: Tina will email Bridget Graziano, Conservation Agent, and Barbara St. Andre to see if they know what is going on.**

- **Medway Clean Sweep follow-up**

Denise stated that she, Jim and Andrea attended the Medway Clean Sweep. Cub Scout Pack 748 worked with them on removing the garlic mustard. They removed a total of 11 bags. The Scouts seemed to enjoy it and asked to do it again next year.

- **Long-term solution for hornets under Hoag Boardwalk**

Denise stated on sunny and warm days there are many hornets that come out from under the boardwalk. This could pose a problem for people who are allergic to hornets. Denise spoke to Steve Carew, and he stated he put out 3 new traps and ordered refills for the old traps. We are not sure how well the traps work because they don't see many dead hornets in the traps. Jim stated they might be able to install screens or a mesh barrier underneath the boardwalk decking but this would be a lot of work. Tina stated this could possibly be done in the fall. Denise thought the traps worked the first year but were installed too late in the summer last year. Tina stated we should observe the traps this year to see if they are working and if not investigate putting up some kind of barrier. Denise stated they should put signs at each end of the boardwalk and in the kiosk at the Adams street easement and Lovering street entrance stating caution- there may be hornets at the boardwalk in warm weather. **Actions: Denise make temporary warning signs for now until she can get permanent signs, Mike will ask Stony Brook and the Mass Audubon society if they have any suggestions. Jim will ask DPW about the possibility of putting up screens.**

- **Approval of Minutes: • April 2, 2024**

The committee agreed to change the font in one section. Charlie made a motion to approve the April 2, 2024 meeting minutes as amended and Andrea seconded the motion. All members stated aye they were in favor and the minutes were approved.

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

Jim stated he was out with the Trail Club removing garlic mustard along the Choate Park to High School trail and he saw a big patch of green and found an invasive plant called Narrow Leaf Bitter Cress. Jim stated they can grow to 14 inches high. There was not that much of it and he can pull it out. He reported it to EddMapS.org which is a national database because this is the first time he has found it in Medway. Jim also stated that water chestnuts can become very thick and become a problem.

Denise mentioned Medway Pride Day which is May 18th. Tara, Andrea and Denise will be available to help. **Action: Tina will ask the farm if they want to share a booth with us.**

- **Adjourn**

Charlie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:59: pm. Jim seconded the motion and all members stated aye they were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tracy Rozak