

## 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

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

## OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

**Tuesday, June 4, 2024 - 7:00 PM**  
**Medway Senior Center**  
**75 Oakland Street**  
**Medway MA 02053**

| Attendance | Tina<br>Wright | Denise<br>Legee | Charlie<br>Ross | Andrea<br>Burke | Mike<br>Francis | Tara<br>Rice | Jim<br>Wickis |
|------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Present    | X              | x               | x               | x               |                 | x            | x             |

Also in attendance: Andrea Guenther, Trail Club Member. Andrea is interested in joining the Open Space Committee.

**Denise called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.**

- **Bench installation and trail maintenance updates (Denise)**

Denise stated the two benches were installed. No other update at this time.

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

Mike was not present, no update.

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

Tina stated she sent an email to the two property owners on Oakland Street to see if they would allow people to walk across their land. Denise spoke to the Police about getting out to the Boardwalk and they said they can get in on their ATVs' and in an emergency the Police and Fire can cut through the Lee property, so they don't have any issues. Steve Carew, Parks Superintendent, told her he cannot get his big grass and brush cutting equipment through the public path, so he would need to have access through the Lee property. We also would need permission for vehicles to go through there for certain limited events. Denise thinks we should pursue this the easement. Tina stated CPC funds could pay for the survey. Tina stated we should first check with Mrs. Lee because it doesn't make sense to survey it if she is not willing to give us an easement. **Action: Denise stated she will talk to Mrs. Lee about the possibility of an easement.**

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

Tina stated she was going to ask Bridget Graziano, Conservation Agent, if she wanted to kayak through the area, but she recently walked it and the area we thought we could launch a canoe, turns very muddy further down and you would not be able to get a kayak through there. Tina stated she needs to do more research on this.

- **Long-term solution for hornets under Hoag Boardwalk (Jim)**

Jim stated he spoke to Steve Carew, and he doesn't think the hornet traps do much good. He thinks a physical barrier would be better to keep the hornets from coming up through the floorboards. Steve told him his department would take a look at it when the water goes down. He may be able to put a screen underneath. Jim stated screening materials and staples will be needed but not sure where the money will come from. Denise stated it could come out of the trail maintenance fund. **Action: Denise stated she plans to make some temporary signs made to warn about the hornets as soon as she can. She will also look into getting a few permanent signs on order.**

- **Trail Maintenance Funds**

Denise stated we are coming to the end of the fiscal year, June 30<sup>th</sup> so she wants to get all needed supplies ordered by mid-June. She plans on buying 3 benches and with the shipping charges it costs roughly \$3,000. Volunteers are going to work on 3 foot bridges at the Amphitheater and 2 bridges at Deerfield Pond. We need to put a bog bridge in on the yellow trail in the utility easement south of Adams street and a couple more by Lee's pond. This will cost around \$ 700 for lumber and with other supplies and hardware about \$1,000. We need more tools for use by volunteers such as a weed whacker and a chain saw. All these purchases come to about \$5,000. We have \$10,000 in the budget so Denise will check with Steve Carew to see how much the screening materials for the boardwalk to prevent hornets would cost. Tina stated we could consider getting a handicap accessible picnic table or bench at the Amphitheater, but there are already two picnic tables and a bench there.

- **Reappointments for expiring members (Denise, Andrea, Jim, Charlie)**

Charlie stated he emailed Jeremy Thompson, Planning & Economic Development Coordinator and he stated he was going to put this on the Planning Board agenda for June 11<sup>th</sup>.

- **Letter about Sanford Mill Dam**

Denise stated the residents of the Sanford Mill condo received a letter from Michael Boynton, Town Manager, stating the structure of the dam may be at risk and they are looking at all their options. Andrea Guenther stated she owns a condo there and she and other residents are concerned because many of them use the water for kayaking. They are also concerned about the look of the property if the water and waterfall were not there, and some are concerned about what it would do to their property values.

Denise asked if the Open Space Committee should send a letter to Michael Boynton stating that they are aware of this issue and would like to be kept updated on any decisions. If the dam were to be removed, how does this affect Open Space parcels and our plans for a water trail. Tina suggested waiting until we see if they get the grant to move forward on this. Jim stated there is a habitat there and beavers, fish, mussels and plants have adapted to a slow-moving body of water. If the dam were removed and the water became a rapid flow, this will have an effect on wildlife. Jim stated it will cost a lot of money to maintain the dam. Tina stated the Charles River is basically a puddle in the summer and if they take the dam down, are they going to hydro rake the sediment and restore the river. Andrea Guenther stated she will ask the condo association if they have found out any more information.

- **Administrative: Summer Meeting Schedule**

We will skip the July meeting. The next meeting will be August 6<sup>th</sup>. We will vote for the officers in August.

- **Approval of Minutes: • May 7, 2024**

**Tina made a motion to approve the May 7, 2024, meeting minutes as distributed. Charlie seconded the motion and all members stated they were in favor and the minutes were approved**

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

Denise advised that the development off Highland Street on Copper Drive is supposed to have a little trail adjacent to it that goes to the trail to Choate Park near the High School baseball field. There were some “no trespassing” signs up there. Jeremy Thompson stated some of those signs must be moved and the developer is supposed to make the trail.

Andrea asked if there is a date for the dedication for the ADA trail at the Adams Meadow yet. Tina suggested she email Bridget and ask her. **Action: Andrea to ask Bridget.**

- **Adjourn**

**Charlie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm. Tara seconded the motion and all members stated aye they were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted by,

Tracy Rozak