



**Town Of Medway
Open Space Committee**
155 Village Street
Medway, Massachusetts 02053

Meeting Minutes on January 5, 2016

**Medway Senior Center
76 Oakland Circle**

Attendance	Tina Wright	Jim Wickis	Charlie Ross	Denise Legee	Joanne Williams	Mike Francis	Bruce Hamblin
Present	X	X	X	X	X		X
Absent						X	

Minutes:

December 1, 2015:

On a motion made by Charlie Ross and seconded by Jim Wickis, the Open Space Committee voted unanimously to accept the minutes from December 1, 2015.

Medway Link Trail Community Forum:

The Town will hold a Medway Link Trail Community Forum on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 at 7:00 pm at the Thayer House. Beals and Thomas Senior Associate Robert Weidknecht will be the facilitator of discussion. This meeting is possible due to the recent town meeting article which approved use of the community preservation acts funds to acquire additional open space land north of Adams Street and to design a new segment of the Medway Link Trail.

The purpose of the meeting is to review the overall concept and vision for the Medway Link Trail. This meeting will also focus on the trail route options for Adams to Lovering Street. Members of the Open Space Committee are encouraged to attend.

Peace Garden:

The Chairman received input about creating a peace garden in memory of the deceased. This would be a tranquil spot with a possible bench. This could be a town wide project. The Chairman will share this idea with the Parks & Recreation Committee.

Army Core of Engineers Land:

There is a meeting run by Allen Earls on Thursday January 28, 2016 in Franklin to discuss parcels owned by the Army Core of Engineers.



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Conway School:

There will be a meeting the week of January 11, 2016 with representatives from the Conway School. The meeting will look at the scope of work. The Health Agent, Bridget Graziano is preparing a grant application.

Member Wickis supplied the members with a page relating to the scope of work. He wants to make sure that the proposal takes into account the following:

- Preservation of the natural ecosystem
- Improvements of public awareness, engagement and education
- Creation of new corridors and linkages between public lands for wildlife passage and public use, reduction of possible habitat fragmentation.

The scope of work includes the following:

- Habitat Mapping and boundaries.
- Invasive Species Inventory and prioritized invasives management recommendations. The Open Space Committee already knows this but it needs to be put gathered and put within a working document.
- Trail Improvements and possible additions.
- Forestry Stewardship Plan Mapping.
- Improvement to existing recreation opportunities and associated amenities.
- Parking and entrance area re-design – at the northern end of property.

The Committee wants to make sure the following is addressed:

- There is parking area for several cars.
- The switchback trail down from north field will have a plan for a vegetation screen
- Established mowing schedule ask for options due to the habitats in this area.
- Have a walking path and possibly around the pond.

Clean Up Day:

The Annual Medway Clean Sweep day will be held on April 16, 2016. The Committee needs to decide on a focus area for this event.

Task Force Iarussi/Lovering:

The Committee was made aware that the field report from Beals and Thomas is about 100% done. The wetlands are 85% complete. There are more wetlands than originally thought. It was



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also mentioned that some of the vernal pools were marked incorrectly. There will be options presented that need to be discussed such as boardwalk. Some of the trail could be seasonal. The Department of Environmental Protection and the Conservation Commission need to agree with what the proposed solution is.

Jim Wieler explained that this trail has been part of the town master plan. There will be another meeting to discuss the various options.

There are three things to happen:

1. Seasonal trail
2. Bog walk
3. Trail right along east side property.

There will be a Community Trail Forum to be held on January 27, 2016 at 7:00 pm at the Thayer house.

Medway Trail Club:

There was a meeting about the Medway Trail Club. Member Ross provided a handout which included information about the vision and mission of this club. This club is a volunteer organization that works with Medway Open Space Committee, Parks Commission, Department of Public Services, and Conservation Commission. The group will be communicating online through a Facebook group and through a mailing list.

Member Wickis agreed to be the liaison for this group.

Facebook Metrics 2015:

The members are in receipt of a packet entitled “Medway Open Space 2015 Year-End Facebook Metrics”. The packet contained information about the top ten posts in 2015; and the growth of “likes” (followers) overtime. In 2015, Medway Open Space Facebook posts had more than 23,000 views.

There was a comment about if the pictures on the town website could be updated. It was communicated that “Virtual Town Hall” website does not allow for much creativity.

OTHER BUSINESS:



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- The Chairman provided plastic boxes which could hold the brochures to be placed at the various sites.
- Member Hamblin discussed brought up two issues:
 - Reinstitution the agricultural committee in town. He spoke with Selectmen Trindade.
 - Research parcels on the Charles River to possibly purchase and create a state park.
 - Look at opportunities for black swamp.
 - Rail Trail- taking active role in buying land.

Future Meeting:

- **Tuesday, February 2, 2016.**

Adjourn:

On a motion made by Denise Legee, and seconded by Charlie Ross, the Open Space Committee adjourned their meeting at 9:26 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Sutherland
Approved 2/1/16