

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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March 7, 2023 Date– 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	

Also in Attendance: Bridget Graziano, Medway Conservation Agent

Denise called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Denise, Tina, Tara, Laura, Jim, and Andrea stated aye they were all present for the meeting. Mike joined a few minutes later.

Trail Maintenance Guidelines (Guest: Bridget Graziano)

Bridget Graziano pulled up the edited version of the Trail Maintenance Guidelines that the Conservation Commission drafted at their Feb 9th meeting. Bridget stated she added the words “under the care of custody of the Medway Conservation Commission” to the title. Bridget stated she made minimal changes to the language and added two bullet points under the General section. Denise asked the committee members if they had any other comments or suggestions. No one did. Bridget stated she is happy to take feedback at any time in the future as this is not set in stone.

Jim Wickis asked if Bridget needed anything from the committee as far as support for The Trail Maintenance Guidelines. Bridget stated they can vote on it. Denise stated she didn't think a vote was necessary as it will be noted in the minutes that her changes were accepted by the committee.

Andrea asked if the cleaning of the blades is just for the DPW or would our volunteer mowers have to do that as well. Bridget stated if someone is mowing an invasive species then these guidelines should be followed but nothing must be signed off on. Denise stated that this is really for big mowers not for volunteers using hand clippers.

Quick Status Updates

Denise

• Announcements and upcoming meetings

Denise stated she forwarded an email from Susy Affleck-Childs, Planning & Economic Development Coordinator to the committee members about a Mass Land Conservation Conference coming up in March.

• Conflict of Interest updates

Denise stated this is a new system and we all have to do the training yearly now and sign the form. Jim stated he completed it in about an hour and sent an email to Allison Potter, Assistant Town Administrator stating he completed it. Denise stated everyone should try to have it done by April 1st and email Allison to let her know that it's been completed.

• Medway Clean Sweep (Saturday, April 29th)

Denise stated the Medway Clean Sweep is set for Saturday April 29th. She was asked to manage a group and stated we should pick an area that we would like to work on. Two years ago, they worked on pulling garlic mustard with the Cub Scouts. The committee members agreed it would be a good idea to work on this again. There should be a lot of it at Choate and Deerfield. Andrea stated she would be available, Tara, Tina, and Mike might be available and Laura is not available that day. Action: Denise will let Allison Potter know that we want to work with the scouts at Choate Park.

• Salmon/Willows trail

Denise stated the trail is done along the Charles all the way out to the canoe launch. A kiosk is upfront next to the gazebo. There is an open space sign down near the trail head. Another kiosk is down towards the buildings at the top of the driveway to the canoe launch and an open space sign is down at the launch at the trailhead. We need to finish the maps to put into the kiosks.

Tina

• Legal guidance on an easement vs. access on private property (three cases)

Tina stated she spoke with Barbara Saint Andre, Director of Community & Economic Development and Suzy Affleck Childs, Planning & Economic Development Coordinator about what they would like to do with the easement. Tina stated she needs to get in touch with the three property owners to have the area surveyed. Tina will then get a quote for the surveying cost and see if there are enough funds in the Trail Works budget or maybe the warrant in May if needed. Tina will ask Dianne, from the Sanford Mill condo association if they want to walk the area. Denise mentioned there is a tree down in the way of where they want to go but they can walk around it. Action: Tina will get in touch with property owners to let them know the next steps and get a quote for surveying of the properties.

Laura

- Laura did not have an update at this time.

Charlie (not present)

- **Status on town's GIS coordinator and impact upon mapping plans**

Andrea stated they hired a new GIS Coordinator but they are not starting until June.

Jim

- **Town-wide treatment of invasives**

Jim stated the policy has been written and accepted and he had given it to Charlie to put it on the Open Space website and the Conservation Committee website. **Action: Jim will check with Charlie to see if the policy has been put on the websites.**

Mike

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

Mike stated there is now an Open Space sign in the grassy area of the parcel. That area is part of the police station and under the control of the Selectboard but they agreed to put a sign there. There was hesitation about the parking area as it could impede future expansion of the police facilities. Mike stated if they had to move the parking area at a later time that would not be a problem. Mike stated he is meeting with Lieutenant Watson and Sean Harrington, Deputy Director of the DPW , Denise Legee and Bridget Graziano on Friday to look at other options for parking.

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

Mike doesn't have an update on this. Tina stated we can't put this on the map until we get the easements. **Action: This item should be taken off the agenda until we get the easements.**

Andrea

- **Water trail**

Andrea stated she and Joanne got together with Martha, previous GIS coordinator per Susy's recommendation. She showed her the sheet from the assessor with the town owned properties near the Charles River. Tina asked which properties do not need surveys and can be plotted on google maps. Andrea stated the residential area off of Massapoag St. has a steep incline and some of the neighbors might be opposed to the trail because people might have to park in front of their houses to access it. **Action: The committee should look at three or four possible other spots further west and see what needs to be done to move forward.**

Joanne (not present)

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

Action: Tina will follow up with Allison Potter to check on the status of the form.

- Action item to speak with the Town Manager and DPW Director regarding trail maintenance.

DPW only seems to be working on Open space properties when they have time after all other properties are taken care of. This is not acceptable. **Action: Denise will send Tina the maintenance spreadsheet and Tina will talk with MaryJane White, who is our Select Board person assigned to liaise with the OSC, about it.**

- **Approval of Minutes: • January 3, 2023**

Tina made a motion to approve the January 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes as amended. Andrea seconded the motion and Jim, Laura, Tara, Tina, Mike, Andrea, and Denise all stated aye they were in favor and the meeting minutes were approved.

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

Tina stated she drafted a one page summary for the Annual Report of the things that the Open Space Committee has worked on in the past year. Tina asked if anyone had any suggestions or comments. Jim stated that he and Bridget held three outdoor meetings for the general public and one meeting with the Master Gardner's on how to identify and manage invasives and this should be included in the report. Andrea pointed out a spelling error on page 5 (and should be an). **Action: Tina will make the changes as requested and submit the summary to Sandy Johnston.**

Denise stated Becky Atwood has a suggestion for some of the money that was donated to the Cultural Council by her deceased parents She would like a nature sculpture on one of the trails. **Action: Denise will invite Becky Atwood to the next meeting.**

Jim would like to put a discussion about Bio Maps on next month's agenda.

Mike stated there is now a conversation sign right across from the Amphitheater.

- **Adjourn**

Andrea made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:08.pm. Denise seconded the motion and Jim, Laura, Tara, Tina, Mike, Andrea and Denise all stated aye they were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tracy Rozak