

Committee Members

Tina Wright, Co-Chair
Denise Legee, Co-Chair
Charlie Ross, Clerk
Andrea Burke, Member
Laura Connolly, Member
Mike Francis, Member
Jim Wickis, Member
Joanne Williams, Member



TOWN OF MEDWAY COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

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**April 5, 2022 - 7:30 PM
Remote Meeting**

Attendance	Tina Wright	Denise Legee	Charlie Ross	Andrea Burke	Laura Connolly	Mike Francis	Jim Wickis	Joanne Williams
Present	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Guests in attendance: Cyndy Ellis and Tara Rice

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, an act which extends certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the State of Emergency, and under which public bodies retain the option of holding open meetings and hearings remotely until July 15, 2022, and in accordance with the Medway Select Board's remote participation policy as amended at its July 2, 2021, meeting, Open Space Committee members will be participating remotely. Access via Zoom is provided for public participation.

Denise called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm.

Tara Rice was present for the meeting. Tara is interested in becoming a committee member. Tara will send an email to Susy Affleck-Childs, Planning & Economic Development Coordinator, and try to get on the agenda for the next Planning Board meeting.

Quick Status Updates

- **Denise**

- Medway Master Plan Task Force (monthly update)

Denise stated they just finished a meeting with the Master Plan Committee – this meeting was to introduce community members to the website where they can provide comments about the strategy ideas. The Open Space Committee might need to meet again to discuss some of these ideas as a group.. The committee members should look it over. **Action: Denise to send an E-mail explaining what will be reviewed as a committee and set up the special meeting.**

The URL is <https://bit.ly/MedwayEngage> .

- Medway Pride Day

Medway Pride Day will be on May 21st from 10 AM to 4 PM. Andrea, Jim, Denise, and Joanne will be able to cover the booth for a while. We will probably be sharing a booth with another committee- maybe with the Trail Club or the Planning Committee. Tara mentioned she will be there with her own booth from 10 AM to 4 PM . **Action: Denise will check with Allison Potter, Assistant Town Manager, about booth availability.**

- Medway Clean Sweep

Medway Clean Sweep will be this Saturday and committee members, along with the Trail Club and the Cub Scouts, will be at the Deerfield Pond from 9 -11 AM. Please let her know if you are going to help.

- **Laura**

- Brochure verbiage status

Laura stated she sent the latest update to everyone. There are two new trails that need to be added.

Joanne suggested referring to the different sections by name like Choate, Boardwalk etc. We need to be more consistent with the naming of the trails. This will be discussed more at the next meeting.

The committee agreed the Link Trail should be shown in a different color than the other trails. **Action: Charlie to separate it out.**

Denise stated the tennis court and basketball courts need to come off the brochure at Choate Park.

Jim asked if Julie Harrington, Parks and Recreation Director, should review what has been written so far. **Action: Laura will reach out to Julie.** Mike suggested removing private properties like the driveway mentioned after the police station. It was agreed that it should be removed.

- **Charlie**

- Brochure map status

As discussed last month, the Willows Open Space isn't a separate parcel. Charlie spoke with Susy, who suggested he show the conservation areas. Charlie obtained a map from Bridget Graziano, Conservation Agent, and drew them on the map.

Charlie added the Oakland trail and the trail from McGovern over to Holliston Street. did the GPS capture for the McGovern loop trail, but found that the bridges had shifted across the two stream crossings and was concerned about showing this trail. After discussion, the committee decided to show it. **Action: Charlie to add it.**

There were two trails that Charlie had wanted to walk with another committee member. After the discussion, Charlie agreed to walk the Willows on his own.

Joanne volunteered to meet him at Deerfield to show him that trail. **Action: Charlie to capture and add these trails.**

- **Jim**

- Town-wide treatment of invasives

Jim stated he does not have an update at this time. He is still working on this.

- **Mike**

- Ohnemus DPW discussions re: parking lot

Mike stated he heard back from Sean Harrington, DPW Deputy Director. Sean spoke to Sergeant Watson about parking in the grassy area. Sergeant Watson was fine with putting a sign there and establishing parking there. Mike will discuss this with Bridget, and he has left her a couple of phone messages. Sean stated DPW could do the work, but there needs to be some engineering design because the storm water drainage is over there and ties into the culvert. We would need to find funding for this.

Tina suggested deferring the funding until they look more into the grant for the Water Trail. Bridget has an intern, Lucas Olsen, that is going to coordinate a survey of the area and make recommendations. We should focus on the parking area first because without parking it is not really accessible. Joanne asked about the nearby oil company. She said there is a little trail behind it that has a beautiful viewing area. Joanne will look into who owns that property.

- Amphitheater Alternate Village Street Access (continue discussions with condo owners)

Mike stated he has the contact info for Diane Ghera, the treasurer for the condo association. He left a message for her and sent an email to another resident. The plan is to meet with one of the residents when the weather gets warmer.

- Rail Trail east of Oakland (parking, water station proximity)

Mike said Sean met with the Water and Superintendent and DPW and reviewed putting a sign up at Oakland Street. There is some concern about the public having access to the water and they don't want to increase the level of use at this time. They would need to invest in cameras and fencing and maybe other items. They are receptive but more research from other towns is needed.

- **Tina**

- Trail from Senior Center to Rail Bed (private parcel permissions)

Tina left a message with the Army Corps of Engineers. She can't find the phone numbers for the owners of the private parcels. Charlie suggested sending a letter through the mail on the committee letterhead. Tina may just stop by their house and leave a note if they are not home.

- The Willows Trails (schedule walk with Bridget)

Tina, Denise, Bridget, and Lucas were only able to go out to the canoe launch. Tina stated that in the summer the river it is very weedy with milfoil and shallow. We will wait to the end of the summer to see if they could get some grant money for weed eradication or move the canoe access a bit. They did not walk the trail that might be changing as it was too wet.

- Water Trail (talk with Bridget about getting river cleared)

Tina, Denise, Bridget, and Lucas checked out Ohnemus and the river bank near Massapoag street and the Charles View Lane community south of Neelon Lane. These areas are very nice, but lots of clearing needs to be done at Charles View.

- **Joanne**

- Trail maintenance at Millstone Village (coordinate with Bridget and DPW)

Joanne stated she spoke to Steve Carew, Parks Superintendent. He asked the condo association for access through the crushed stone walkway. They gave him access and he has used this access several times.

- Deerfield Open Space property update

Joanne stated Deerfield now has a trail with two loops with a cross piece. It is mostly cleared but there are still invasives. The Clean Sweep group will be working there on Saturday. A bench or a picnic table would be great there.

- Trail Safety (follow up with Police Chief)

Joanne received a letter from Bill Kingsbury, the incoming Chief of Police. He was very interested and supportive, and she will be setting up a meeting with him to discuss this more.

Approval of Minutes: March 1, 2022

Laura made a motion to accept the March 1, 2022, minutes with the two minor amendments mentioned. Joanne seconded the motion and Charlie, Denise, Joanne, Jim, Tina, Laura, Mike and Andrea all stated aye they were in favor, and they were approved.

Other items that may come before the committee

Joanne stated she spoke to Michael Boynton, Town Manager, about a shed and there will be shed available for trail club members to keep their tools in.

Denise stated we need a few more Open Space signs. If we get 10 of them the price goes down to \$370 each. We need at least 6 now but will need more in the future. The committee decided to purchase 12 signs. Denise will handle this.

Joanne stated she has heard from several people that are disappointed about the removal of the basketball courts at Choate Park. There is really nothing for the pre-teen and teenage age groups. Tina stated that discussions are underway about possible things for them.

Next month's meeting will be in person at the Senior Center at 7:00 pm.

Adjourn

Charlie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm. Joanne seconded the motion and Charlie, Joanne, Jim, Tina, Laura, Mike, Andrea, and Denise all stated they were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tracy Rozak