

## 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, August 1, 2023 – 7:00 PM**  
**Medway Senior Center**  
**76 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 7:04 pm.***

• **Announcements and upcoming meetings (Denise)** - There were none.

• **Conflict of Interest updates**

Denise all members completed this except for Mike. Denise will check with Mike on this.

• **Final uses for 2023 funding (Denise)**

Denise reported they had about \$8,200 left in the budget after spending just under \$2,000 on the Bridges Festival. Denise stated she purchased the shed for ~\$5,000 and spent \$1,800 for the two benches, In addition to sign posts for the distance/directional signs, Jim spent \$500 on tree ID signs and has marked trees with red flags that will have the signs placed on them. They also purchased several tools and supplies to be used by volunteers for trail maintenance. Denise reported that the Town of Medway voted in another \$10,000 for this year as a budget line and if not used the funds will be lost. The Trail Identification account has approximately \$1,300 in funds from a while ago and there are still \$17,500 in the CPC Fund.

• **Bench placement on trails (Denise)**

Denise ordered two six-foot composite benches that are cedar color. Denise stated Steve Carew told her he will help put them in. Steven Williams ordered a bench and wants to put it between the two bridges where the Bridges Festival was held in honor of Joanne Williams. We don't need any benches for the Adams Meadow, since DPW already has some for there. Denise thought a bench would be good at the Chicken Brook overlook where there is a temporary bench now. Another bench could go near the Boots and Bonnets sign on the trail between Choate Park and the high school.

Tina thinks we should talk to Allison Potter about having a bench process so that all the benches are uniform. **Action item: Denise will complete the volunteer project form to have the two benches installed to assure any additional benches will be the same as these two new ones. She will also talk to Glenn Trindade about the funding of the benches in the future.**

- **Ohnemus DPW discussions - parking lot – meeting with Town Manager (Denise)**

Denise stated she spoke with Michael Boynton, Town Manager, about the parking spaces next to the police station. The Open Space Committee would like to put the parking spaces near the trees to the left of the police station, but Michael said this land falls under the Select Board. **Action Item: Mike Francis will reach out to Mary Jane White who is the Selectboard liaison for the Open Space Committee. Mike stated DPW could do the work, but gravel might be needed.**

- **Brochure map (Charlie)**

Charlie stated he spoke to Jacob Frankel, the new Geographic Information Systems Coordinator, to introduce himself and get things moving.

- **Contact link on town website (Charlie)**

Charlie stated he spoke to Rich Boucher, Information Services Director, about the contact link on the town website and it is now working properly.

- **Easements for access on private property (Survey updates for Oakland and Adams Streets) (Tina)**

Tina stated she is waiting to get a quote for surveying the Lee Property and the two properties on Oakland Street, near the park. Tina stated one of the owners doesn't mind an easement but doesn't want it to be permanent.

- **Follow-up meeting on trail maintenance with DPW (Tina)**

Tina stated she did not have the meeting with DPW because the day after the Open Space Committee meeting, the DPW crew was out working on the trails. She will revisit this in the future if needed.

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

Tina stated she was supposed to paddle this area with Bridget Graziano, Conservation Agent but Bridget is out on Family medical leave.

Andrea stated she met with Jacob Frankel on July 12<sup>th</sup> and told him our goal is to have an access point to the river from Neelon Lane. Jacob didn't think there was enough town land there to launch a canoe. The spoon area on the map is Willows Salmon property. Andrea stated she walked on the trail and it looked awful, all over grown and there were no maps in the kiosk. Tina stated they are going to have to maintain that area until it gets walked on regularly. Denise stated the Millstone trail is all overgrown too. Andrea told Jacob they may have more questions after the meeting tonight. Andrea has a good map of the area, but it is too small and would like to get it enlarged.

Jim stated that he, Joanne Williams, and Bruce Hamlin, former OSC members, looked at the property along the Charles below Neelon Lane several years ago and they could not find a way in. People would have to park on Center Street on the other side of Village Street, near the Memorial School, and carry the canoe to the river. It looks like the area will just have to be a canoe landing but not a launch.

#### • Project at Adams Street Meadow

Denise and Tina stated they were disappointed about the way the trail looks and wondered why it had to be built up so much. Denise stated that Bridget reported that if they dug down, the engineer would have to do an archeological survey and that would be too expensive. Denise stated Bridget should have contacted the Open Space committee before proceeding as it was a change to what we were told. Tina stated that Bridget indicated she had met with Michael Boynton and Barbara Saint Andre, and they said it was required through ADA.

Charlie said he was very upset with several aspects of the project. He thinks there should be more natural materials used like crusher run, rather than reclaimed asphalt (with large, embedded chunks). Charlie thinks it would be appropriate for the town to pause the project to see if it can be reengineered. This would cost money but in its current state it is ugly, unsafe, and the material is not natural in his opinion. What are our options for fixing this rather than having to live with it? Tina stated we were vested in this project and have a right to know why it was done this way. Tina suggested she and Charlie should meet with Michael Boynton and Barbara Saint Andre to understand the engineering aspect of this project. People are going to ask the committee members why it was done this way and we should be able to answer. Jim stated our opinions are subjective, the engineers are the professionals, and we should assume they know what they are doing. Charlie acknowledged the subjectivity, but several people have these concerns, and the resulting design can be unacceptable even if it's properly engineered. The point is that we were not given the chance to participate in the planning/design like the prior projects we supported (notably, the 2017 and 2019 boardwalks).

Mike wondered if there was an engineered plan that we could look at. Maybe there were constraints that they had to build it that way. Charlie stated there were probably funding and time restraints as well. Mike stated if they used ground-up asphalt then it is considered clean fill. He wondered if there would be a top dressing to hide the reclaimed asphalt, but that would make it even higher. Jim asked if there is a way to tell the quality of the fill being brought in to ensure it does not contain invasives like Japanese knotweed.

Charlie stated we might want to ask for a task force to be established for the remainder of this project. He won't vote in favor of any more projects in the future unless a task force with OSC representation, or some other similar arrangement, is part of the agreement. Charlie stated we should tell Barbara what our expectations are moving forward. **Action Item: Charlie and Tina will set up a meeting with Barbara to let her know our concerns, comments from the public and find out what can be done moving forward.**

- **Betania II**

This area is the back end of the property that abuts Idylbrook Field. It includes 5 parcels of land that have been sold to a developer. Mike stated he received an email from a friend who forwarded him the deed. Charlie stated the deed was recorded at the registry of deeds. Denise stated Denis Crowley is aware of it and has some concerns. The Open Space Committee has concerns about losing trail access to Wenakeening Woods and the rail trail in Holliston.

- **Voting on Committee Officers**

***Jim made a motion that the two Co -Chairs, Denise Legee and Tina Wright remain as Co- Chairs and Charlie Ross will remain as clerk for the next year. Andrea seconded the motion and all members stayed aye they were in favor and the motion was approved.***

- **Letter of appreciation to Susy Affleck-Childs**

Tina stated she would ask someone who was close to Susy what kind gift she would like. Tina will call Jeremy Thompson who replaced Susy and set up a meeting for her and Denise to meet him. **Action Item: Tina will look into a gift for Susy and contact Jeremy Thompson and set up an introductory meeting.**

- **Approval of Minutes: • June 6, 2023**

***Tina made a motion to approve the June 6, 2023 meeting minutes as distributed. Jim seconded the motion and all members stated aye they were in favor, and the minutes were approved.***

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

Jim stated that for the last two years he has been giving classes on invasives to town folks as part of his role on the Open Space Committee. He stated that after his last class, the organizer gave him a card which he opened later and saw there was a check in it for him for \$200. Jim stated he called her and said he can't accept enumeration for his classes as its part of his Open Space duties, She asked if she could donate the money to the Open Space Committee. Jim stated he was unsure. Tina stated the donor could send the check to the Town of Medway and note that it be used by the Open Space Committee. **Action Item: Jim will contact Carol Pratt, Town Accountant, about how to record the money.**

- **Adjourn**

***Charlie made motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 pm. Denise seconded the motion, all members stated aye, and the meeting was adjourned.***

The next meeting will be on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 7:00 pm.

**Respectfully submitted by  
Tracy Rozak**