

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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September, 6, 2022, 7:00 PM
Medway Senior Center

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	x	x

Denise called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Quick Status Updates

Denise

• Announcements and upcoming meetings

Denise stated there are no upcoming meetings.

Denise reported that Bridget Graziano, Conservation Agent, and a consultant went out to the proposed ADA compliant trail that will be on the Adams Street Meadow. They were looking to see where to put the viewing platform. They took soil samples and discovered the trail is in a wetland area so they will pull it in from the wetlands a little bit. This is a high area about one fourth of the way in from the street. The platform will be 1-2 feet from the ground because they need to build a ramp. Joanne suggested having a cover over it and looking into funding if the grant does not cover it.

Denise stated they still do not have an agenda for the Mass Trail conference in November but she will send it to everyone once she receives it.

• Master Plan update

Denise stated the public comment period ends tomorrow. If anyone has any comments to make, they can do so until tomorrow.

- **Follow-up on Deerfield open space property boundary (and action item about contacting the trail builder)**

Denise stated she got the name of the person from Joanne but has not had a chance to talk to him yet. He is the father of a Boy Scout that did the original trail. Charlie suggested drawing it as an open ended loop; need to find out whether the trail goes off town property or not.

- **Action item to set up a regular meeting with the Conservation Agent**

Denise spoke to Bridget about this, and Bridget was open to having a 15-30 minute meeting once per month. Monday or Wednesday afternoons are best for her. Any committee member that is available can meet with her it, does not have to be a designated person. **Denise will get this set-up with Bridget and advise the OSC.**

Laura

Nothing new to report, waiting for the map.

- **Charlie**

The committee will discuss the status of the Deerfield trail and the property boundary at the November meeting. If there is no resolution, Charlie will draw it as it was shown previously (open-ended loop) and will move forward with the map. He will check at that time as to whether the town has a new GIS coordinator.

Jim

- **Williamsburg Way Open Space**

Jim asked if anyone wants to recommend any improvements. Jim stated this is a 7 acre parcel between the Williamsburg condos and Hopping Brook. Jim stated this area does not have a name and suggested naming it something relevant to Hopping Brook. Mike suggested Hopping Brook Meadow. Jim stated the area is deeded to the Conservation Commission, but the condo association is responsible for mowing. Jim thinks we should talk to them about getting the walking path mowed at least two times 2 per year. Jim has the specific wording from the Planning Boards decision about ownership and mowing and he will send it to the members. Andrea asked about changing the habitat signs as "habitat" is misspelled. The committee discussed the best location to put the Open Space sign. **Action: Jim will send the specific wording of the Planning Boards decision to the other members.**

Andrea asked if they could put a picnic bench there because it is such a beautiful spot. Jim stated he has offered an easement from his property. Tina suggested giving access rather than an easement, but we need to find out the differences. **Action Item: Tina will contact legal counsel to find out the difference between an Access and an Easement .**

- **Town-wide treatment of invasives**

Jim stated there is another basic class coming up this Friday at Adams Meadow Parking area and this will be the last one of the season.

Tina asked about the invasive treatment plan. Jim stated there is a policy that has been approved. Jim stated he needs to put it in a better format and add some pictures to it and get feedback from the other members.

Jim stated the area heading west up the north side of the trail from Choate Park to the High school is very overgrown with invasives. Tina suggested this could be a reclamation project in 2023. Maybe we could find a grant to fund this project. We would need to talk to the DPW, the Conservation Commission and the Parks Department about this project.

Mike

• Ohnemus DPW discussions re: parking lot

Mike stated he met with Bridget and her assistant on site. Bridget was having the area surveyed and she asked the surveyor if he could sketch out a couple of parking spots opposite the police station on the survey.

Mike stated Bridget gave her approval for putting up the Open Space sign as long as it's in a logical place. We will need to get in touch with DPW to install it. Mike asked if we can look into the DPW folding the cost into their budget. Mike asked if they can't fund it, do we have funds for it? Tina said yes we could fund it from the Trails budget. **Action Item: Mike will check on the price of 8 foot long pressure treated posts.**

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

Nothing to report at this time.

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

Nothing to report currently.

Tina

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

Tina stated she spoke to the person (name unknown) and they don't want to give an easement but will allow access to the property. They told her they felt that way when they go to sell it, they won't have an easement on their property deed.

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

Tina suggested this area could also be a possible reclamation project for 2023. We would need to identify what areas they want to focus on. Tina stated the goal is to actually have a launch spot for canoes and also have somewhere you can stop along the way. We need to put together a basic project plan. The plan should outline which areas, to focus on, a potential launch site and resting spot and what would be needed. Joanne and Andrea volunteered to work on the initial plan. **Action item: Joanne and Andrea will start working on the initial plan.**

Denise spoke to Bridget, and she is working with the Salmon Property manager. They have mowed the area and have bought the Open Space signs; one will go near the trail head and one near the canoe launch.

Joanne

• Bridges Festival Update

Joanne stated they have a “save the date” and a map posted for the festival. The music and ice cream truck are booked, and the Police and Fire departments are notified. There will be a photographs and/or art work at the boardwalk. There will be information about dogs on leash and a pet memorial. There will be musical exhibits around. The Girl Scouts will be doing a nature activity and there will be folk music at the Board Walk Meadow. They are working on creating signs and putting them up.

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

Joanne stated she does not have an update at this time.

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

Joanne will follow up with the Town Manager on this.

• How the committee can interact with external groups to ensure activities are in keeping with our goals for Medway trail and open space.

Joanne stated she wrote guidelines for the volunteers and gave it to Bridget for review. Bridget made some comments and Joanne will review it again.

Denise suggested putting an email address on the Open Space Web page where someone could submit questions or comments. This would be a separate email address from the one to report safety issues like a tree down.

Tina suggested having the email links right under the contact info so you don't have to search for it.

There was a brief discussion about updating/changing content. **Action Item: Members should think about what they would like updated/changed on the Open Space page and bring these suggestions to the next meeting.**

Approval of Minutes

• August 2, 2022

Andrea made a motion to approve the August 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes as amended and Charlie seconded the motion and all the members stated they were in favor and the minutes were approved.

- **August 25, 2022**

Joanne made a motion to approve the August 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes as submitted. Tara seconded the motion and all the members stated they were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Other items that may come before the committee

None

- **Adjourn**

Tina made motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm. Mike seconded the motion and all the members were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tracy Rozak