



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

Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2016

**Medway High School
88 Summer Street**

Attendance	Tina Wright	Jim Wickis	Charlie Ross	Denise Legee	Joanne Williams	Mike Francis	Bruce Hamblin
Present	X	X	X			X	X
Absent with notice				X	X		
Absent without notice							

Residents Present:

Jim Wieler

David Kaeli

Discussion of Warrant Article 24:

Warrant article 24 for the Annual Town Meeting addresses changes to the town bylaw covering hunting. Specifically, it makes two changes: (a) clarifies that the article applies to all town property, not just schools, parks, and playgrounds, and (b) provides a mechanism for a person who wants to hunt to obtain permission from the Chief of Police (just as hunting on private property requires permission from the owner).

Member Ross explained that the discussion of consistent hunting rules had come out of the task force working on the Adams-to-Lovering trail design. Mr. Wieler (chairman of the task force) explained that when the gaps in the current regulation were brought to the attention of Chief Tingley, he expressed concern. Town Administrator Boynton worked with the chief and others to draft the proposed wording.



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Chairman Wright explained that the surprise was that the article appeared on the warrant as sponsored by the Open Space Committee. She has discussed it with the Administrator to make sure there is better coordination in the future.

Mr. Wieler said that the bylaw was really about public safety, which is why the Chief wanted it clarified.

The committee reviewed the wording and noted that the bylaw already exists. The warrant article only inserts additional wording. The bylaw does not prohibit hunting, and the committee is not taking a position on hunting at this time.

There's a history of hunting between Adams and Lovering streets in particular, going back many decades to when the land was private property. This could be a safety concern in the future, once a public trail opens through the property.

Member Hamblin expressed a concern about bow hunting, and how it would fit within the current or with revised bylaw. The wording is clear about discharging firearms on town property, but less clear about other forms of hunting. He is concerned that a person could still be injured in a hunting incident, even with the revised wording.

Member Wickis expressed a concern about providing a forum for soliciting inputs from hunters.

After final discussion, member Ross moved and member Francis seconded that the Committee support the warrant article as written. The motion passed 3-2, with members Wright, Francis, and Ross in favor and members Wickis and Hamblin against.

Approved June 7, 2016