



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

Meeting Minutes on June 29, 2016

**Medway Senior Center
Oakland Circle**

Attendance	Tina Wright	Jim Wickis	Denise Legee	Charlie Ross	Joanne Williams	Mike Francis	Bruce Hamblin
Present	X	X	X	X			X

Conway School Recommendation:

The members discussed the recommendations of the Conway school project.

Member Wickis drafted a memo highlighting the six project areas. There was discussion about invasive plants and how to manage these. With the six goals noted, it was suggested to collapse these into four projects instead of six.

Once the details of the project are worked out, it was suggested to make sure the Conservation Agent and Commission are in agreement. The next step would be to present this information to the Board of Selectmen.

The projects was broken down into the following areas:

1. Summer Street Trail
2. Woods-Meadow Trail
3. Choate Park Loop Trail
4. Management of meadow

Invasive Species Management and Meadow Flora:

The report outlines an optional project to remove the existing meadow vegetation and a multi-year plan for replanting. This would be a big undertaking which could be done with burning and herbicide treatment. This area could be replanted with grasses and perennials. This would be expensive. The members are in agreement that this area appearance more-passive approach is appropriate.

Member Wickis presented the members with options for a moving schedule. This is a schedule of mowing broken up into seasonal mowing, late winter, late fall, and mid-August.



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The Committee decided that a single annual mowing in the fall would be best. The Committee would like to make sure the information regarding the mowing is communicated to Fred Sibley. It was recommended that some of the invasives be taken out, possibly being replaced with evergreens.

There was further discussion about the removal of invasives. Some members expressed concern that none of the invasive be removed until there is a plan to back-fill if necessary to maintain the feel of the woods. This will maintain the wooded effect. Other members wanted to clear the invasive to the parking area and plant other shrubs and trees.

The members were in agreement that a site walk visit should take place. The Chairman will attempt to schedule this in July.

Summer Street Trail:

The goal in this area is to build a new trail from Summer Street to Adams Street including a loop section near Summer. The part of this trail from the High School to the Right of Way would also serve as part of the Medway Loop Trail. The Committee discussed options for routes, which also could be discussed on a site visit. There was a recommendation to include a kiosk/sign at Summer Street.

Meadow Trail:

The plan for the woods meadow trail is to build a 300' accessible trail through the middle of the meadow with a viewing deck. There was also an option to build a 350' accessible trail above the wetland using helical piers with a viewing deck which connects wood trails. The Committee believed that the through-wetlands trail would not pass muster with the Conservation Commission and would be of questionable value. Also, the Committee prefers a perimeter trail around the meadow rather than cutting directly across the middle. The trail would initially be mowed, potentially by a volunteer or by the Medway Trail Club and later, crusher run (stone dust/crushed rock) could be added, which would allow handicap accessibility. A single viewing deck along the wetlands at the meadow is desirable as part of the project. (A second deck in the woods could be discussed later).

The Open Space Committee felt it would be beneficial to get a cost estimate for the crusher run. This work might be able to be performed by a combination of DPS and volunteers.



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Adams Woods Trails:

The Conway report proposed cutting a new trail along the southern property boundary of the wooded town land immediately south of the meadow. Several members mentioned how the private property on the other side of the boundary already has trails that people use extensively, although those trails are not shown on the town maps that were provided to the Conway School. After discussion, the Committee agreed to return to the prior plan, discussed last winter, of blazing an inner and outer loop using existing trails in the town property, and blocking some of the complicated network of dirt bike paths that are currently in place.

Choate Park Loop Trail:

The report also proposed making a loop north of the original Choate-to-High School trail. There are two spur trails that run north from the trail today leaving the town property. These spurs are on the town trail maps.

Similar to the Adams Woods, the spurs are already connected on the private property through a meadow. Creating a connection on the town side would be very difficult (the area is heavily overgrown) and would cross wetlands. Member Ross walked through this area in the summer of 2015 when preparing the maps and spoke from his own experience. The Committee agreed that this would not be the time to try to tackle creating an additional loop.

Access and Wayfinding:

There was a recommendation to build a gravel parking area off of Adams Street immediately adjacent to the meadow. One goal would be to provide accessible access to the meadow. Member Hamblin cautioned that the word “gravel” isn’t precise enough to guarantee accessibility, and the selection of material should be made carefully.

There was discussion about signs and kiosks at each trail intersection with trail rules and distances of trails noted. There would be areas for dog waste stations. There was a comment which referenced that with access there may need to be approval from the Planning Board. The committee also discussed that there had been a lot of ATV use in the past and it may be beneficial to place large boulders in this area. However, there haven’t been signs of such use since the town assumed ownership. A kiosk sign could be added at the parking lot area.

It was recommended to ask the Medway Trail Club to clean west from the meadow to the High School emergency access road.



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Viewing Deck:

The Committee discussed having the wetlands viewing deck handicap accessible to handicap. This could also be a good location for the placement of reading materials and signage.

Site Visit:

The members were in agreement that they would like to meet on Tuesday July 5, 2016 at 6:30 pm meeting at the Medway High School to do a site visit. (This was subsequently rescheduled to July 19th.)

MINUTES:

June 7, 2016:

On a motion made by Charlie Ross, and seconded by Denise Legee, the Open Space Committee voted unanimously to accept the minutes from June 7, 2016 with the noted revisions.

Adjourn:

On a motion made by Bruce Hamblin and seconded by Denise Legee, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Amy Sutherland
Approved September 6, 2016**