

**Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Task Force
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 15, 2018
Sanford Hall at Medway Town Hall
155 Village Street
Medway MA 02053**

Members present - Matt Hayes, Paul Atwood, David Blackwell, Glenn Trindade and Denise Legee

Members Absent with notice – Cindy Sullivan and Paul Mahoney

Also present - Susan Affleck-Childs, Bridget Graziano, and Tracy Rozak, Recording Secretary

Matt Hayes, Chairman, called the meeting order to order at 7:09 p.m.

Debrief Land Management Workshop

Susy asked the group for their feedback on the recent land management workshop held on May 5th. Matt thought it gave everyone a good idea of what goes into a land management plan. Paul thought it showed the importance of boundaries as far as encroachment. Paul was impressed that Chris, the caretaker of Thayer House, attended and wants to get involved. Glenn stated it's important to budget for this type of work. Denise was very surprised by the diverse wildlife that was present. Susy stated that Anne emphasized the importance of having good baseline documentation such as site plans and plot plans. Anne will have the summary report for the group to review soon.

Susy stated that for the rest of tonight's meeting she would like to focus on programs and activities for the new OSRP. She would also like to decide on the best format for the action plan, the schedule for completion, and the cost estimate for the Railroad Right of Way.

OSRP Action Plan - Brainstorming/Discussion on OSRP Action Plan Ideas/Strategies

Susy introduced this topic and asked members to offer their ideas for what programs and activities should be included in the OSRP Action Plan

Paul stated they learned a lot at the baseline document report training and could pass that information along to the public as a resource. Maybe conduct guided trail walks with a list of all the flowers and wildlife on the property. Maybe establish a yearly trail walk program.

Matt stated the importance of publicizing all the open space parcels that the Town owns that are open to the public. Maybe find better ways to distribute the information to the public.

Glenn stated that maybe the cable studio students could do a video series with Jim Wickis or a conservation member and have them do a trail walk and upload the video to the cable access channel, YouTube, Facebook, or Snapchat. It's important to get the middle school

kids to the open space sites because their parents have to drive them. Maybe best to coordinate with the school and have a contest like a scavenger hunt that lets them go out and find things. Maybe hide objects and form teams to find them. The idea is to make it fun and get them out to the open parcels. This could be an annual event to get new kids each year.

Bridget suggested something similar to geocaching or the Weetamoo Woods in Tiverton. She also suggested something like painting Medway rocks that kids could keep or take a picture and post and put back for someone else to find. Maybe could get the Girl/ Boy Scouts involved. Bridget suggested putting a laminated list of plants in a kiosk with pictures and the kids could try to go identify them. The kids could learn about native and invasive plants.

David suggested boating classes or kayak/canoe rentals at Bresnahan's Landing on the Charles River.

Susy stated the importance of signage to direct people to the open space in addition to the signage to get around the place. Denise stated the Open Space signs with the blue heron are very noticeable. We should look into consistent signage. Glenn stated people go to the CIPC for budgeting but there might be other sources available. Need someone to design, create and make the signs. Need to figure out the cost and put it into the budget.

David mentioned having a special event like a dog social. Do an activity and socialize. Might want to take a closer look at the dog parks and the people that use them. Matt suggested that if we allow dogs on the trails then we should also provide dog poop bags.

Paul asked if Bresnahan's Landing is ADA accessible. Susy stated that according to Anne Capra it is not completely ADA accessible. It was suggested that it would be nice to have an ADA accessible fishing area for people. Need to think about flood zones and where the water goes. Maybe a town wide fishing derby or contest at the Amphitheater would be a good way to get people out to the area.

Matt mentioned there is a Medway Fishing Club Facebook page and maybe we could get them involved. Bridget stated there are 4 locations in Medway that are stocked with trout.

Susy asked Paul what is on the horizon for the Agricultural Commission that might be appropriate to include in the OSRP. Paul reported working to build up the farmers market and get more vendors involved. Also looking into the "right to farm" bylaw which is a statewide standard that allows anyone with 5 acres or more to farm in a normal manner.

Susy asked Denise what the Open Space Committee's priorities are. Denise stated they are working on management plans for the different properties, trail markings and signage and community outreach to get people aware of the different properties. Glenn stated they are also working on completing the HOAG trail and making the connection to Millstone.

Susy stated it might be a good idea to talk with the utility companies to get permission to use some of the area near/under the utility lines for trails. These areas could help us to connect to other open space areas. Glenn stated we could also talk with the gas company to see about walking trails along the gas lines as well.

Susy would like us to get back into monitoring the various grants available through the State and mobilize a team to work on grant applications.

Bridget stated she would like to establish a Volunteer Stewardship Program. This involves getting a cache of volunteers who are available on Saturday mornings to go out and take care of small issues like removing small branches/brush or modest cleaning up of a trail etc. Conservation might be able to keep track of the areas that need attention and a list of volunteers. The group discussed the best way to get volunteers. Bridget stated Sherborn sent a mailing to every household asking if they would like to donate or volunteer. We could promote it through open space events, trail walks, OSRP meetings, or Facebook, Twitter etc. People would have to sign a waiver and their name would go onto a list. Another way is to focus on social media, have people adopt a parcel – have stewards of properties that are near their house or that they use often. Maybe insert something about volunteering in the next water /sewer bill that gets mailed out. The Town just hired a new communications director, Sandy Johnston, and it might be a good idea to get her involved.

Susy asked what the Conservation Committee would like to see in the OSRP plan. Maybe they could add an agenda item to the next meeting to discuss. Dave stated he will mention it to them.

Susy stated that there are a few open spaces owned by the Town but are connected to a condo association like Pine Ridge and Williamsburg for some basic maintenance. We might want to craft a memorandum of understanding with them. Maybe they could pay a fee to the Town and have the Town do the work or they could do it and we could monitor them. This could become a legal issue if they don't do enough to comply. We should really educate these condo associations up front so they are very clear about what they need to do to comply. Maybe have them sign a form stating they have received and understand it.

Discussion on preferred format to show Action Plan

(See Attachment) Everyone liked the format that Ann proposed which consists of Action/ Responsible Entity /Timeframe / Funding

Discuss revised schedule for plan completion

Next Task Force Meeting with Consultant Anne Capra (proposed 6/19/18), then a final community forum and submittal to State.

Susy would like to schedule one more Task Force meeting. Susy stated that she, Bridget and McKenzie scored all the Town owned properties from the spreadsheet and would like to present this to the group.

The next meeting will be on June 5th at 7:00 or 7:30 pm. Susy noted that if we would like to apply for some grants for next year, we would have to submit a draft plan to the State by July 12th.

The Task Force will meet with Anne Capra on June 19th to review the draft plan. They still need one more community forum. This does not have to place before they submit the draft to the state. Possible meeting dates are Monday, June 25th or Wednesday June 27th. Susy will check with Anne about her schedule, find a location, and get back to the group.

Discuss price quote on title research for railroad right of way properties

(See attachment) The estimate that Barbara Saint Andre sent to Susy from a Boston title research firm is a ballpark figure of \$3,500 for researching the railroad corridor from Holliston Street to the Millis town line. Susy stated if everyone is ok with that estimate then she could approach the Community Preservation Community for funds. Matt Hayes will ask another title attorney if that seems like a reasonable price before proceeding.

Review and approval of minutes of the April 17, 2018 OSRP Task Force Meeting

Denise Legee made a motion to approve the April 17, 2018 meeting minutes as submitted. David Blackwell seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Other Business as May Come Before the Task Force

Matt mentioned he looked at a few other OSRP plans from other towns and thought they looked pretty similar. He noted that Lincoln, MA had a nice plan/layout.

Susy stated she still needs pictures to include in the plan. Bridget stated she may have some good ones.

Adjourn

David Blackwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Paul Atwood seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

*** Next OSRP Task Force meeting will be on June 5, 2018, at 7:00 or 7:30 pm (TBD).
Next Task Force meeting with consultant Anne Capra will be on June 19, 2018 at 7:30 pm.**

Respectfully submitted by
Tracy Rozak, Recording Secretary

Reviewed and edited by,
Susan E. Affleck-Childs
Planning and Economic Development Coordinator

Medway OSRP – Action Plan	
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Susan Affleck-Childs

From: Barbara Saint Andre
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2018 3:39 PM
To: Susan Affleck-Childs
Cc: Michael Boynton; Allison Potter
Subject: FW: Medway Railroad corridor title exam/estimate of exam fees

Susy, here is the estimate from the title examiner as to the potential cost for reviewing the title to a portion of the former railroad bed, which I believe the OSRP task force was looking for. With respect to the time line for completing the title exam, I believe attorney Marsh is being somewhat optimistic, I know that he (and all title examiners) are very busy, so I think July or August is probably more realistic. If the town does request the title work we will, of course, nevertheless attempt to obtain the results as soon as possible.

Barbara J. Saint Andre
Director of Community and Economic Development
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From: Michael H. Marsh [mailto:mmarsh@mmoglaw.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 3:00 PM
To: Barbara Saint Andre <bsaintandre@townofmedway.org>
Cc: 'Mark R. Reich' <MReich@k-plaw.com>; 'Kim Springis' <kspringis@mmoglaw.com>
Subject: Medway Railroad corridor title exam/estimate of exam fees

Barbara, thanks for calling earlier today. Our fee estimate for completing a title exam for that portion of the railroad corridor extending easterly from about Holliston st. to the Millis town line is that it will fall in the range of \$3500--\$7500, obviously dependent on how many hours the title examiner needs to complete the title work. We bill our examiner time at \$75/hour. Most of the work will be performed by the examiner. Timing will likely take us thru the end of June or beginning of July. We will also pass on any disbursement costs, i.e. Norfolk county photo expenses which are a dollar per page. If you have any questions or need any clarification, please advise. Thanks. We will await your authorization to proceed.

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