

August 7, 2012
Open Space Committee
Medway Senior Center
Oakland St.
Medway, MA 02053

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Tina Wright, Members Jim Wickis, Paul Marble, Mike Francis, Bruce Hamblin and Patrick McHallam.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:06 pm.

There were no comments from the public.

May 2012 Minutes:

On a motion made by Bruce Hamblin and seconded by Mike Francis, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes from August 7, 2012.

June 4, 2012 Minutes:

On a motion made by Pat McHallam and seconded by Paul Marble, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes from June 4, 2012.

Idylbrook PARC Grant:

There were several residents present who showed up at the library to discuss the Idylbrook Parc Grant. The Open Space Committee could not officially open the meeting since there was no quorum. The proposed grant application was sent out before the deadline. The Committee expects to hear back about the grant mid October.

The Committee discussed the fact that they did not receive the grant for the Amphitheater Improvements and are wondering why this was rejected.

The Chairman communicated that she spoke with the Town Administrator and wanted to see if a representative from the granting entity would come out and meet with us. We could show them the site and discuss what may have been missing in the grant.

There was further discussion that the town may not be doing anything wrong in regards to the grant submittal, but the Committee needs to explore how to maybe present things differently.

The Committee discussed that the grant was a strong one but maybe we need more partners from other communities. The Committee discussed looking at the access points and improving those.

It was communicated that some of the other communities who received the grants had local representatives both at the State and local level supporting the grant. The Committee may need to pursue using the local representatives to assist with supporting our grants. Letters of support from local and State representatives was recommended.

The Committee was informed that the Dedham Grant noted eleven sites. It also had an educational component as part of the grant submittal.

Member Hamblin noted that we do not have the feedback about the grant in regards to where we placed. It would be helpful to get this feedback. In the past, Bruce has gone to the central office to see what the scores were and look at some of the other towns who were awarded the grant with similar demographics.

The Chairman responded that if any member wants to research and look at the awarded grants to see what we can do differently, she is in support. It was also communicated that some of these grants are based on population and we are not as big as other communities. The Committee did seek out Milford, but they were not interested.

The Committee discussed that the real purpose of this grant was to have this be a significant collaborative effort with the parks and recreation area developed and a park for young kids. We tried to make it a multipurpose grant and tried to broaden the scope and make it a better use of the open space.

The town has to allocate the whole \$200,000 before we get the grant.

The town looks at 50-70% reimbursement from the state.

There was a comment that no parks are handicap accessible and we will lose points on this.

The Committee is in agreement that a maintenance plan should be put in place. Member Wickis will meet with Tom Holder.

Amphitheater Walkthrough:

The Committee members were provided with a document which was the proposed management goals for the Medway's Amphitheater.

There was a walkthrough with the DPS Director and the Conservation Agent.

A list of nineteen items was put together by Member Wickis for the Committee to discuss.

These items also have suggestions and recommendations from the DPS Director and the Conservation Agent.

This is ready to go the Conservation Commission for approval.

The list covered is noted below:

Parking spaces for handicap there are three spaces:

Conservation Agent communicated that the parking spaces cannot be where indicated due to wetlands. The parking could be on the space created by the DPS vehicles. There will need to be discussion with Vin Boczanowski to see if he is amenable to this entrance from the easement.

Karen noted that the surveying map and driveway needs to be further clarification.

The Chairman indicated that the wetland was construction created.

Member Wickis will be attending the next to Conservation Commission meeting.

The OSRD needs to show the plan and the draft and show the results of the walk through. The parking should be shown along with any updates.

Chairman Wright would like to see if this area can be mowed.

Easement from Town Hall Lot or Land Purchase:

This easement will need to have an appraisal. The conservation Agent is comfortable if this is obtained.

Native Plants/trees/shrubs:

There will be screening along the boundary at the condos.
All in agreement.

Interpretive Panels:

All in agreement

Maintain Fields:

Tom noted that he will mow this area annually. The Committee would like it done more frequently.

Trail Network:

The trail network will be identified with blazes/plaques. The trail network will be surfaced with wood chips/stone dust.

This was not discussed with Karen and Tom.

Bridges:

The bridge is to safely span the drainage ditches in two or three places. Both Tom and Karen liked having a small bridge over the larger of the two drainage

areas. Tom offered to put in an 8 inch pipe. Karen was fine with this idea.

Native Plant along River Bank:

Karen felt that there would not need to be any plantings along the river bank.

Picnic Tables:

Tom and Karen were ok with picnic tables. It was suggested by Bruce that there be a handicap table. It was also suggested that there be some type of trash receptible.

Canoe/Kayak Launch:

Both Tom and Karen thought this was a good idea.

Fishing Pier:

Both Tom and Karen thought this was a good idea.

Create Perimeter Loop:

Karen communicated that she is not able to approve a walking path through the wetlands. This trail will need to be looked at further.

Storm Drainage:

Both were concerned with the erosion being caused by drain pipes coming from Village Street. Tom will look more closely at the erosion control methods which could be used.

Evaluate entry Trail:

This was not discussed.

Evaluate Entry Trail from one of town owned parcels:

This was not discussed.

Removal of Invasive Plants:

This is fine with both.

Observe regrowth:

Karen does not think that anything needs to be done other than letting it re-vegetate naturally.

Bruce noted that crushed stone should be used not gravel.

There was discussion about setting up a Subcommittee with a two or three tier approach. With this approach, some of the work may be able to be done without the grant money, for example, the parking. It was suggested that the Committee get another draft from Gino Carlucci.

The Chairman indicated that a split rail fence would look nice and would add

character, definition and a boundary to the area.

The Action Items Include:

Clarification on continuing the trail with the intent of bridge over wetlands

Mowing

Attend Conservation Commission meeting.

Member Marble noted that there is debris in the front of the site. He wanted to ask the DPS if he could remove the debris and bring it to the town dump without being charged.

The Committee will have Paul and Jim set up a meeting with Tom Holder to discuss the debris, mowing and to discuss the drainage. The Committee would like a timeline.

Village Street Canoe and Fish Pier:

Member Hamblin noted that there is a preliminary plan for the fishing pier and canoe launch, on Village Street. There will be a fishing platform.

The Preliminary plans were shown to DPW Director and Conservation Agent on site. The Committee had no problems with what was presented. One concern was the site distance access going out. There will need to be cutting done to see traffic coming on both sides.

The walkway area will be crushed stone.

The current plan shows six parking spots with one handicap. This is the first totally handicap accessible area in town and the platform is totally handicap.

There is a plan for erosion control.

There will also need to be discussion with Tom Holder about the cleaning of the basins and overgrowth.

There are options relative to picnic benches. We need to work with the proposal to make it more of a facility. Hopefully, the town can put money in for other items to make it a nice facility.

Action Items:

State will present to Conservation

Member Hamblin will represent at the Conservation meeting

There will need to be a big clean-up on site

Do another site walk.

Bruce and Pat will do the site walk and determine how to complete the look at site.

The State will do the signage.

The goal is to submit to the Conservation Commission in September.

This program is geared toward town and state owned land. There is an agreement in place that the town needs to maintain it this area. The town can charge fees for usage.

Member Hamblin suggested naming the area “John Schroder’s Pier Port.” The Committee was not in agreement about this kind of naming, but another suggestion was to put a plaque on the bench.

Some of the access will be part stone and part asphalt.

Further discussion pursued about signage. Some suggestions include Charles River Bicentennial fishing area.

Pat and Bruce will get back to the Committee in October with a draft project plan for the six conceptual spots.

There is a concern about how many spaces the town can maintain over time.

The Chairman noted that it would be a good idea to have a map to identify the public spots throughout town.

Action Item:

Have an inventory of what open space we have throughout town.

Have a map to show the open space.

Paul will follow-up with Susy.

Identify six spots throughout town.

Community Farm Trail:

The filing for the Request for Determination of Applicability will be completed over the next few weeks.

The Committee next discussed what resources may be needed fiscally for the next year. Budget season will be starting in the fall and it may be a good idea to sit with Tom Holder to come up with a basic management plan. It will be important to give a context to what is achievable and makes sense. The Committee needs to be an advocate for additional resources.

There was a suggestion to put together a trail committee.

Member Marble noted that the Committee needs to look at short term versus long and look at what the trails are going to connect to and makes sense.

On a motion made by Paul Marble and seconded by Jim Wickis, the Committee voted to go into executive session at 8:50 pm and will adjourn the meeting from executive session.

Roll Call Vote:

Tina Wright aye
Jim Wickis aye
Paul Marble aye
Mike Francis aye
Bruce Hamblin aye
Patrick McHallam aye

On a motion made by Mike Francis and seconded by Paul Marble, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting and executive Session at 9:20 pm.

Roll Call Vote:

Jim Wickis aye
Paul Marble aye
Mike Francis aye
Bruce Hamblin aye
Patrick McHallam aye

Future Meetings:

The next Open Space Committee meeting will be Tuesday, September 4, 2012 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Sutherland
Approved October 2, 2012