

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

**Meeting Minutes on March 8, 2016**

**Medway Senior Center**  
**76 Oakland Circle**

**Attendance:** Denise Legee, Tina Wright, Charlie Ross, Jim Wickis, Bruce Hamblin, Joanne Williams

**Absent:** Mike Francis

**Residents Present:**

Karen Lindstrom, 3 Iarussi Way

Michael Murphy, 11 Iarussi Way

**Adams Street to Lovering Street Trail Update.**

Charlie Ross reported on progress and setbacks on this trail effort, by the Trail Task Force.

The Conservation Agent, Bridget Graziano, met with the Department of Environmental Protection regarding the possibility of a boardwalk through the wetlands near Lovering Street. DEP said no boardwalk would be allowed if another route is possible, which there is along the property edge of some abutters at Iarussi Way. An alternate route, along the edge of the Millstone development, is being explored. The amount of wetlands in this area means more study is needed to determine if a trail can be placed here. Another potential problem involves a restriction on the town's spending money for work on private property. And, there is no more money in the budget for the engineering firm to pursue study of this alternate trail.

From the south, the trail must cross a small piece of private land. The cost for an easement has just increased significantly. The task force is considering an alternate route that remains on town property. An alternate route would need a small bridge, but would avoid the longer boardwalk that the original route would have required. This route (which originally been planned as a later add-on) would have the advantage of greater accessibility.

The current plan for a bridge crossing at Chicken Brook will require use of the easement for electricity transmission. However, the utility holding the easement has the right to remove any structure, putting the town's investment in a bridge forever in jeopardy. The trail route is being moved eastward by a small amount to avoid the easement. This also results in the trail going through the "pine woods" on the northern side of the brook. After review, the Task Force decided not to go to Town Meeting in May to request trail funding, but added a placeholder for a request for funding of further trail engineering.

**Conway School Project.** The second of two public hearings was held, that described plans for ecological preservation and citizen access. Tina Wright reported on the event. There was general praise for the depth and comprehensiveness of the planning process. Many proposed development suggestions were well received. The final plan will be presented to the town in the weeks ahead. Jim Wickis proposed that the Committee develop a process to assess and implement the Conway School recommendations.

The Committee further discussed the clearing of vines and invasives along more of Adams Street than had been undertaken in 2015. This may be a good item for optional projects that the Medway Trail Club could undertake. (See "Maintenance Plans for Public Areas" below).

**Agricultural Committee.** There are now three members, who report directly to the BOS. Bruce Hamblin described its progress to date. It will immediately start a needs survey of Medway farmers. It will also explore possible student involvement from the Norfolk Agricultural School and 4H groups.

**Corps of Engineers Property.** An ad hoc committee has formed to develop an access and citizen use program for Corps properties in Medway, Bellingham, and Franklin. Membership is comprised of residents of these towns. It is led by Alan Earls, former Franklin Open Space Committee member. Bruce Hamblin attended and reported on it. In Medway, there are significant Corps holdings along the Hopping Brook corridor. The committee is developing legal language that can be used in the legislature, to help with access concerns. Coordination will begin with the MAPC.

**Maintenance Plans for Natural Areas.** With the increase in accessible, minimally managed lands, the Committee has had discussions about the need to have plans for their maintenance. With the inauguration of the Medway Trail Club, the need for specific planning has arrived. Jim Wickis presented a draft of maintenance actions that could be separately and jointly adopted by DPS and volunteers. There was a discussion about whether the focus of OSC maintenance should extend to infrastructure such as parking lots, but resolution was not attained on this topic. OSC members will review the list and make modifications and additions, to be discussed at next meeting. Tina Wright will inquire about the town's procedures for allowing volunteers to use power equipment on town land.

**Medway Clean Sweep.** This April, the OSC will have a team of volunteers along Lovering Street, between Summer Street and Winthrop Street. This site is chosen to support the effort for a trail between Adams and Lovering Streets. Jim Wickis will coordinate.

**Medway Peace Garden.** It was reported that Paul Mahoney of Parks department would like to have a peace garden, in memory of deceased Medway students and others, located at the Amphitheater. The OSC is in favor of this. Bruce Hamblin and Jim Wickis will provide support to the project.

**Minutes:**

**February 2, 2016:**

**On a motion made by Tina Wright and seconded by Denise Legee, the Open Space Committee voted unanimously to accept the minutes from February 2, 2016 with no revisions.**

**Future Meeting:**

**Tuesday, April 5, 2016.**

**Adjourn:**

**On a motion made by Jim Wickis, and seconded by Denise Legee, the Open Space Committee adjourned their meeting at 9:01pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Wickis, Clerk