**Medway Community Farm Inc. Board of Directors**

**(www.medwaycommunityfarm.org)**

**Heather Scott (President)**

Heather Scott spearheaded the Medway Community Farm Initiative in 2007. In 2008, after receiving town support, she established the non-profit Medway Community Farm.Prior to launching Medway Community Farm Heather served on the Board of Directors (2003-2005) and Advisory Board (2006-2010) at Natick Community Organic Farm, a non-profit community farm established in 1976. "The Farm" taught her the importance of a community farm and its place in a community.  It is a remarkable land planning tool that promotes seven uses: protecting open space, providing local food, creating community, promoting outdoor classroom learning while providing employment and volunteer opportunities. As a result she made it her mission to bring the community farm experience to her town of Medway, Massachusetts. Previously Heather worked for The Nature Conservancy as Northeast Paralegal she worked on over 300 land conservation projects protecting thousands of acres of land in the Northeast. She is past voting member to the Medway Community Preservation Committee (2001-2003) and the Medway Open Space Committee (2000-2003). Heather graduated from Susquehanna University. She majored in public relations and minored in biology. She resides in Medway with her husband, daughter and dog.

**Nate Hamilton, (Treasurer)**

Nate Hamilton brings his background in real estate accounting to his role as treasurer. Nate has over 10 years of accounting experience and has performed a wide range of financial reporting functions for commercial real estate properties located throughout New England. Nate is a graduate of Fairfield University and holds a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Accredited Professional designation through the US Green Building Council.

**Paul V. Kenney, Esq. (Legal)**

Paul offers his services and expertise as a lawyer and helps us navigate through the legal aspects of this operation. He has worked pro bono to establish the 501(c)(3) status. Paul is a life-long resident of Medway and has had a general practice of law in Medway for the past twenty years He is also a member of the Board of Directors of Strata Bank, past President of the Medway Business Council and Past President of the Western Norfolk County Bar Association. Paul is a graduate of Holy Cross and Suffolk University Law School.

**Deborah Kreiser-Francis (Educational Chair)**

Deborah is the head of InterpWorks, a consulting company that assists small non-profits with their education and interpretation services.  She currently works part-time as Administrator for White Oak Land Conservation Society, based in Holden, MA, and full-time as a mom to two young girls, both in the Medway school system.  In the past, Deborah has held museum and resource management positions with The Trustees of Reservations, the U.S. Forest Service, and the National Park Service, and did student teaching in the public schools in Clifden, Ireland.  Deborah has volunteered with 4-H, the Millis Historical Commission, the Franklin Historical Museum, the National Association for Interpretation, and as Grant Reviewer for the U.S. Department of Education. Deborah holds a Bachelor's degree in History from Vassar College and a Master's degree in American History and Certificate in Museum Studies from the University of Delaware, with additional graduate coursework in Resource Interpretation from Stephen F. Austin State University.

**Jackie Mellen (PR/Marketing Chair)**

Jackie Mellen is currently a Marketing Manager at IDG World Expo in Framingham, MA with responsibilities that include coordinating both traditional and non-traditional marketing efforts as well as the overall marketing execution for E3 Expo, one of the most prominent video game & technology tradeshows in the world. Before IDG, Jackie was contracted by P&G/Gillette through Promotion Execution Partners to coordinate marketing elements for several Venus® and Fusion® product launches. Jackie graduated from Clark University in Worcester, MA studying Psychology with a concentration in Communications & Marketing and was a lead member of the American Marketing Association, Boston Chapter for 2 years.  Jackie currently lives in Waltham but spent most of her life living in Medway where her parents still reside.

**George J. Vella, PhD. (Grant Writing Chair)**

Dr. George Vella, served as the Director of Research and Strategic Planning for Charley’s Fund Inc, a public not-for profit organization focused on developing a therapy or cure for Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD). Dr. Vella has extensive business experience with over 20 years in the life sciences industry and has held several senior executive positions during that time. Prior to joining Charley’s Fund Inc. he was Vice President of Research and Development at BioProcessors Corp., a start up biotechnology company. Before joining BioProcessors, he held positions as a Scientific Fellow, a Divisional Vice President of Science and Technology and a Senior Director of Worldwide Scientific Operations during his six year tenure at Applied Biosystems, a Division of Applera Corporation. He joined Applied Biosystems from PerSeptive Biosystems where he served as Vice President of Chemical R&D and later became Vice President of Technical Affairs. Prior to PerSeptive, Dr. Vella worked at Millipore and Waters in various senior managerial positions. As an academic his experience included being a lecturer of organic chemistry at Loyola College in Montreal, Canada.  Dr. Vella received his PhD in Bio-Organic Chemistry from McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada and was a Post Doctoral Fellow in the Biochemistry Research Institute at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. He later became a medical research staff member in the Cardiovascular Research Focus Group at the same institution.

**Farm Manager (Non- Voting Observer):** Brittany Sidway.

Outdoor education and recreation was Brittany’s passion for the first five years of her working life.  From age 16 to 21 she worked at a YMCA overnight camp as a counselor, lifeguard/boating instructor/swim instructor, climbing wall instructor, outdoor living skills and nature instructor, and finally as assistant to the director.  She developed her skills as a leader, manager and organizer of children and young adults and loved what she did.

It was in two sequential seminars at Northeastern University, where Brittany earned a degree in Environmental Studies and History, called ‘Nutrition, Public Health, and the American Diet,’ and ‘Eating in the Environment,’ where Brittany first connected her passion for nutrition, environmental issues, working outside, and being a vegetarian.  So many problems; water pollution, air pollution, soil erosion and degradation, heart disease, obesity, mal-nutrition, nature deficit disorder, etc., were all connected through one singular act – growing food.

Realizing growing organic food would make the world a significantly better place and also make her happy Brittany took a small step, left the camp she had been working at and attending for twelve years.  She got a summer job as a counselor at Hawthorne Valley Farm in Upstate New York leading teams of teenagers in market gardening activities and regular farm chores from herding cows to brush cutting.  It was wonderful, but she realized she loved the work more than anything and after finishing college that next year, including a semester in Costa Rica studying sustainable development and agriculture in Latin America Brittany took an apprenticeship at Notch Hill Organics in Sorrento, British Colombia. They were understaffed and Brittany was able to take on the responsibility she thrives with, learning, working hard, and swimming in mountain lakes in the evening.

But, New England called her home.  Last year she took on the Children’s garden at Hawthorne Valley Farm, planning and managing a quarter acre educational plot and leading gardening and market gardening activities with children ages 8 to 15.

In 2010 Brittany worked at three different local CSA farms, and volunteered with Natick Community Farm in the spring.  Here at Medway, Brittany grew a small plot of vegetables for our farm stand and the Medway Farmer's market and worked on preparing our soil for and planning for a successful 2011 season.

This is her dream job.  In a world with so many doubts and questions Brittany feels blessed with the certainty of the beauty, joy, benefits and satisfaction that come from growing organic vegetables.  She looks forward to quiet evenings pulling weeds and happy harvests.

Volunteers include:

The Board of Directors, 4 interns (Alexis Chilinski, Kara McLaughlin, Breanne Kenney, Nicole Quinn)

Regular Volunteers: Nancy Ross, Cathy Hall, Rachel Lander, Pam Halloran, Sue Rorke, Dave Hicks, Brian Frazone, Jonathan Wescott, Alexis Breiteneicher, Fletcher Schneeflock, Jeanne Chugh, Deborah Kreiser-Francis, Marina Alberti, Josh Stephen, Jeena Stephen, Heather Ross…..and many more! At least 20 other volunteers have come for at least one volunteering event.  All of the volunteers above have given at least 10 hours, many of them up to 50.

Please visit our website at [www.medwaycommunityfarm.org](http://www.medwaycommunityfarm.org) for the Board of Directors’ contact information and newsletters.