

MINUTES, STERLING OPEN SPACE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING, July 26, 2007

Attendance: Billy Ayadi, Brian Cline (chair), Joyce Hinckley, Marion Larson, Peder C. Pedersen (secretary) Bob Protano. Guest: Mrs. Terri Ackerman (Sterling town administrator)

From 6:30 PM to approx. 7:15 PM, we had an informal discussion with Teri Ackerman.

Terri suggested having the OSIC membership for Billy Ayadi and Joyce Hinckley discussed the next Selectmen's meeting on August 15.

One of Terri's three goals for Sterling is land use, under which will come: (i) an open space plan; (ii) settling the issues of the land for Sterling airport; (iii) forest management; (iv) reviving the agricultural committee.

These goals and others will be discussed at the All Board's Meeting, most likely to be held on November 8, 2007.

There is a possibility that OSIC will be allocated \$10K towards the cost of producing the revision to the open space plan.

There was discussion as to how obtain (in electronic form) composite maps over Sterling that shows the types of open space.

We discussed the timeline for completion of the plan. One factor is that there currently a no self-help proposal submitted, which would have required a revised Open Space Plan. Thus, a completion time of 10 – 12 months could be acceptable.

We need to strategize as to how to divide up the work, so that tackle those tasks that we can easily accomplish without external help (and funding).

At 7:15 PM, the Sterling OSIC meeting formally began.

Discussion and approval of minutes and notes:

The minutes of April 5 were approved unanimously, with minor spelling corrections, and "Plan" replaced by "Planning Board". Marion will send out corrected minutes.

The minutes of April 19 were approved unanimously, with minor spelling corrections. Marion will send out corrected minutes.

The minutes of June 7 were approved unanimously, with minor corrections. Peder will send out corrected minutes.

Notes for meeting of July 5 were discussed. As no quorum was obtained, there was no need to approve these notes. Nonetheless, Peder will send out corrected notes

The notes from the Joint meeting between the Sterling OSIC and the West Boylston OSIC had been electronically distributed by Brian, and these notes were discussed.

Sterling Fair, 2007:

The pros and cons of participating in the 2007 Sterling Fair were discussed. After some discussion, a motion was introduced by Peder and seconded:

The Sterling OSIC voted to opt out of formal participation of the 2007 Sterling Fair, but will attempt to do informal information gathering in support of a survey for the Open Space Plan.

The motion was passed unanimously.

June 18 Trail Inventory meeting

Brian provided a quick summary of the June 18 Trail Inventory meeting, which was set up by the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC).

The committee discussed what needed to be included in trail inventory. Marion was of the opinion that all trails on conservation land should be mapped.

Survey development

Joyce presented a 4 page revised survey, and contrasted it with the old survey. It is designed so that the results can be compared with the results from the previous survey. It is using a 3 pt. scale.

A lengthy discussion followed, both in terms of format and in terms of distributing the survey. It was proposed to have the survey available on line as well as published in the Meeting House News.

It was suggested – and agreed to – that the concept of open space be defined in the beginning of the survey. Joyce proposed to develop a survey version for kids, which may stimulate discussions in the family and promote outdoor activities.

Updated list of Sterling/State owned land

Billy Ayadi presented a list of Sterling or State owned land. It was proposed that land acquired by the Sterling Land Trust and land under conservation restriction should be added to the list.

A discussion of needed maps and where to obtain such maps followed.

Meeting adjourned 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peder C. Pedersen, Secretary, with input from Brian Cline, Chairman