

MINUTES, STERLING OPEN SPACE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE, October 4 2007

Peder C. Pedersen arrived at 7:45 PM, at which point in time a quorum was established. Attendance: Brian Cline (chair), Peder C. Pedersen (secretary); Bill Ayadi, Bob Protano. The meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM.

Open Space News Update & Meeting Organization

An update was presented re Heinhold/Gargolinski/Desmarais rezoned lands status (Route 12)

Waushacum Overlook status. A trail grant application to DCR was submitted by Sue Valentine on behalf of ConCom in the past week. The amount is \$23,000, including matching funds. We will hear about the decision in January. Sue Valentine was complemented for her continuing effort.

The possibility of officially open Waushacum Overlook this fall was discussed; the justification for this is that any trails are already open. The need for volunteers to help with the opening this fall was brought up.

Trail maintenance of ConCom land in general and Waushacum Overlook in particular was discussed, in response to Protano's question whether we can have a trail maintenance day for Waushacum Overlook. It was noted that Waushacum Overlook contains 30 acres of ConCom land and 17 acres of privately owned orchard under ConCom Conservation Restriction.

ConCom is concerned with managing volunteer effort and manual labor, with the effect that trail upkeep is often difficult. Pedersen proposed that Sterling OSIC consider developing policies re volunteer help for trail maintenance and trail clearing. We may also look into what other towns are doing in regards to trail maintenance on ConCom land.

Review/Approve Recent Meeting Minutes

The review of OSIC minutes for 9/20 minutes was postponed, due to lack of time.

The webmaster has reminded OSIC that minutes have not been posted since 2002. Minutes should be sent in PDF format to webmaster@LeinAssociates.com. (PDF is a good format per Barry Lein.)

Regional Open Space News & Issues

A brief update re Wekepeke lands & waters status and Clinton's Rauscher Farm status was given.

Regarding regional Trail Connections, a very preliminary MRPC trail map has been issued (limited distribution requested).

Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) Update

The survey has been finalized and is ready for launch, with 10/31/07 due date. Bill Ayadi will be collecting filled out forms. An e-mail account has been created for comments, inquiries from volunteers, etc.: sterling.openspace@gmail.com

Copies will be distributed at First Church (permission has been obtained from Pastor Wright-Gray), Conant Library, Town Clerk's office at Town hall, with possible additional locations at 1835 Town Hall and the Senior Center. The copies can be mailed, or dropped at payment box outside Butterick building (Town Hall).

An OSIC article appeared in the Landmark issue for 10/4, written by Danielle Ray. The article will effectively launch. PDF survey will be hosted at www.thelandmark.com. The Meetinghouse News is scheduled to have a survey-related press release provided by Brian for 10/6 issue, and the survey itself will be printed on 1 to 2 pages in 10/22 issue. The survey will also be posted at the website for Town of Sterling.

In addition, we will attempt to distribute surveys at the Sterling Recycle center and at the town meeting on October 15, 2007. The survey forms are due end of October, and we may have survey results ready for presentation before Thanksgiving.

The survey in PDF form was shared with Dr. Tashjian & West Boylston OSAC in support of their plan update efforts.

General Topics re the Open Space and Recreational Plan

Maps for the Open Space plan were discussed. Bill Ayadi stated that he has seen appropriate maps with Jim French, and he will try to learn who prepared these maps.

Matt Marro, an employee of ConCom, can possibly help with the maps. The Town of Sterling owns expensive ArcView software, but training may be necessary for anyone to use it.

Next meeting date was scheduled to be November 1, 2007.

Meeting adjourned 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peder C. Pedersen, Secretary