

## MINUTES, STERLING OPEN SPACE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Meeting, September 20, 2007

Initial attendance: Brian Cline (chair), Marion Larson, Bill Ayadi, Joyce Hinckley, Peder C. Pedersen (secretary); Sue Valentine arrived at 7:25 PM.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.

Bill Ayadi and Joyce Hinckley were congratulated on the good article about them in The Landmark.

### **Open Space News Update**

#### Sterling Fair summary/discussion

Marion was at the Sterling Fair Saturday morning, and 16 people filled out the short survey. Marion mainly targeted Sterling people, who were manning booths. As a result of these surveys, Marion drafted suggested changes to the survey text. Also, OSIC needs to be defined on top of the survey.

#### Nestle status

Maryanne MacLeod and Marion Larson attended the informational meeting re Nestle. A good presentation was given. Abutters presented concerns. A report of the initial pumping and measurements results will be described in a report, which DEP will review in February or March 2008 at the earliest.

#### Airport status

Nothing news to report – only brief discussion.

#### Brian Cline's interview with the Landmark

He has responded to given questions and had described what actions OSIC had been taking regarding rezoning, and what actions OSIC may change in the future.

#### Gaw land on Ford Rd.

Brian mentioned that the Gaw land is still for sale. (~80 acres including pond and Chapter 61 and/or 61A lands)

### **Trails Grant Application Underway for Waushacum Overlook**

An application for \$23,000 has been (or is in the process of being) sent to DCR, specifically the division dealing with parks and recreation. If funded, the money will be available in spring, 2008. The money will be applied to trail construction, web site, bridges and signs, and linkage to town and state parcels. The \$23K will be combined with additional available funds.

A motion was made that Sterling OSIC write a letter in support of the trail application; the letter will emphasize the linkages with trails. The motion was passed unanimously. Brian will draft the text to the letter, and Marion Larson will review the letter.

## **Regional Open Space Activities & Issues**

Re Regional Trail Connections, there is no action, while waiting for reply from Leominster/Lancaster/Sterling Land Trusts.

The town of Clinton passed an override for support of the Rauscher Farm status in Clinton

The Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (mrpc.org) effort with producing trail plans, after the meeting in Sterling town hall this spring, has not moved forward.

## **Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) Update**

### Funding for OS&R Plan

The Pandolf Perkins funds were applied to hazardous materials, and therefore went to the Fire Dept. Hence, there is presently no funding for OS&R Plan.

Sue Valentine announced that the *Montachusett Regional Planning Commission* (MRPC) has a matching funds program, so that a \$10K effort can be done for \$5K. However, we have no sources of funding identified.

### Discussion of revised survey (Joyce Hinckley)

The number of questions on the survey has been reduced to 10, where 3 are demographic questions and 7 are open space related questions.

The survey will be published in the Landmark, and/or on the Landmark's website. Similarly, it will be presented in the *Sterling Meetinghouse News*. It will be available on the Town of Sterling's website as well for the month of October; we will send the survey text to Melanie Clark.

Distribution of the survey in paper form was discussed. The goal is to distribute copies of the survey to Conant Library, to Town Hall, with additional smaller number of copies to the 1835 Town Hall, First Church Sterling, and possibly also to the Senior Center.

### Status of updated parcel data (Bill Ayadi)

Bill Ayadi presented information regarding data that had been collected from DCR, Sterling Land Trust, ConCom, Assessors Office, etc.

Meeting adjourned 9:21 PM.

Peder C. Pedersen, Secretary