

## Meeting Minutes

### OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday March 24, 2011. Time: 7:00 PM

Butterick Municipal Building -- Room 201

In attendance: Marion Larson (chair), Peder C. Pedersen (co-chair, secretary), Bob Authur. Meeting was conducted without a quorum from 7:10 PM until 8 PM, when Robert Protano arrived. The rest of the meeting was conducted with a quorum

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM. (NEXT MEETING IS APRIL 21, 7:00 PM.)

- I. Follow Up from NRWA's Cara Sanford. Marion Larson discussed subsequent communication that she had with Cara Sanford. Cara is arranging for a public meeting for landowners in several area towns, including Sterling. The purpose of the forum is to provide interested landowners with information on estate planning and their options in protecting their land for the future. The tentative date is May 14 and it may take place in Sterling—however the details are not final. When she finds out more, Marion will notify Committee members.
- II. Trail Mapping Technology Discussion. On Tuesday, March 22, Bob Author and Peder Pedersen met with Ben Mazzei from Mass. Fisheries and Wildlife in Westborough. They learned a lot about appropriate GPS data loggers, such as Garmin 60-CSX, and about trail mapping software, such as arc-GIS and MASS GIS. A lower cost version of Garmin 60-CSX can be purchased for \$248, and the decision was made to start the purchasing process of two Garmin 60-CSX. Marion will find out from Donna Couture if there are any procedures to follow regarding the purchase of these items.
- III. Community Block Grant communication. Contact had not been made to Amanda Amory, as a possible person to carry out the writing portion. Peder Pedersen agreed to contact her as soon as possible.
- IV. FY 2012 Budget. An email from Terri Ackerman to all town departments and committees has outlined the proposed FY 12 budgets. The OSIC budget was cut from \$4,250 to \$2000. Peder Pedersen had spoken with Robert Brown from the Finance Committee who had indicated there were concerns that there was not much activity from OSIC. Marion Larson agreed to contact Frank Heineman who is the OSIC liaison with Fin Com to find out how solid these numbers are before Town Meeting.

8 PM--QUORUM ESTABLISHED

- V. Approval of minutes. The minutes of the February 17, 2017 OSIC meeting were approved with very minor text changes.
- VI. Possible Town Purchase of Land on Hardscrabble Road. At a recent land trust meeting, Marion Larson learned that a 9-acre lot at the end of Hardscrabble Road has recently become available for the town to purchase. A purchase by the town will give additional watershed protection to the Fitch Basin of the Wekepeke and access to other landlocked town parcels for recreation and other natural resource management opportunities. Apparently the Board of Selectmen and the

Conservation Commission are supporting the purchase and may be an article for the Annual Town Meeting. After an extensive discussion, the following motion was made by Peder Pedersen and seconded by Bob Protano. A motion was made that Chairman, Marion Larson be directed on behalf of OSIC to write the Board of Selectmen pointing out that purchase of this parcel provides water resource protection, easy public access to other town lands, and is located in the Sterling Open Space 7-Year Action Plan Map in the "Stuart, Hycrest and Wekepeke Agricultural/Forestry Management and Water Resource Protection Focus Area". The OSIC committee encourages the Town to move forward in their deliberations on this opportunity. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peder C. Pedersen (secretary)