

Sterling Open Space Implementation Committee Meeting Minutes
July 22, 2015
Butterick Building, Park Street, Sterling

Members Present: Peder Pedersen, Jim Wilkinson, Bob Protano, Marion Larson

Other attendees : Marie and Scott Pendleton

No quorum until Marion Larson arrived at 7:15. Meanwhile, Marie and Scott Pendleton and daughter were speaking with other OSIC members about concerns over the proposed trail and other activities at the Mudgett Orchard. Pendletons said at a BOS meeting that the OSIC committee was the recipient of the grant for the Mudgett Orchard. OSIC members made it clear that the Committee was not the recipient, that it was the Conservation Commission. OSIC had sent a letter of support for the grant application. Concerns expressed about lack of privacy due to planned vehicular access, potential washouts with ice build up on drive area. They had also attended a Conservation Commission meeting asking questions and not satisfied with answers. OSIC will speak with Con Comm to clarify the situation.

Meeting following Discussion with Pendletons began at 7:47PM

June Agenda --Bob Protano made a motion to accept June agenda, Jim Wilkinson seconded. Voted unanimously to accept agenda.

Approval of May Minutes -- Motion made by Bob Protano to accept May 20, 2015 minutes, seconded by Jim Wilkinson. Members voted unanimously to accept the minutes.

Marion Larson will take minutes for this meeting.

DCR Memorandum of Agreement -- Peder Pedersen reports that he was in touch with Town Administrator Sloszek, the DCR MOA with the Town of Sterling regarding OSIC's trail maintenance is going to Town Council now that the new fiscal year has begun and there is funding.

Trail Brochures -- Peder is working on several historical pieces for several trails. Marion Larson has a draft of natural history info for the Heywood trail. Still a need for Lynde Basin, Hardscrabble and Stillwater Basin Trails to complete those brochures.

Farmers Market Presence -- Marion Larson will provide MassWildlife materials. It was decided to start on July 31. Dry run of tent set up to be on Thursday, July 30 at 6PM. Table not shipped yet, chairs are needed. Bob Protano remarked on good deal with folding chair with cushion at Ocean State Job Lot. Marion Larson authorized by OSIC members to procure 3 chairs. Storage will be at 1835 Town Hall, thanks to Recreation Department Director Kristin Dietl.

Kiosks -- Peder Pedersen presented design at Sterling Land Trust meeting for their thoughts.

Meeting With DPW -- DPW has been to Hapgood Rd (the trailhead to Heywood Reservoir) and cleared more area and laid down some gravel allowing for more parking access. Room for about 7 cars now. Pedersen noticed more car activity there now. Would like a kiosk at this area, right now only a small one nailed on to tree by Division of Fisheries & Wildlife.

Next Work Date and Place -- Hardscrabble Road on August 11, 2015 at 9AM. A confluence of SLT, Conservation Commission land and Town of Sterling (Gaylord property) with a gentle, wide roadway makes for a straightforward clean up and trail maintenance.

Hardscrabble Road Report -- Bob Protano looked through Annual Town Meeting reports. In 1960, Town meeting voted to close a portion of North Nelson Road. In 1971, Town meeting voted to change the name of North Nelson Road to Hardscrabble Road, rescinded the closure of North Nelson Road and voted a new closure of Hardscrabble Road based on a different set of measurements. (Reference Article 13 and 14 of March Town Meeting in 1971.)

Banner for OSIC Tent--The banner was laid out for all to see, looks good and can hang from the tent. Complements to Diane Pedersen's assistance on this design.

New Business -- All OSIC members need to be sworn in. Marion Larson recalled also a brief conversation with former Town Administrator about the need to have staggered terms, but this didn't make its way forward. Marion Larson will look into how to address this.

Next Meeting Date set for Wednesday, August 19, 2015 at 7 PM at the Butterick Building.

Meeting Adjourned 8:50 PM.

Submitted by Marion Larson, OSIC member.