

Sterling Open Space Implementation Committee Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2016
Butterick Building, One Park Street, Sterling

Members Present: Marion Larson, Peder Pedersen, Rob Protano, Erin Rehrig, Jim Wilkinson

Meeting Began at 7:08 PM

1-3. Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes: Jim moved and Erin seconded acceptance of the agenda for April 13, 2016; motion accepted unanimously. The minutes for March 11th were also accepted unanimously. Jim agreed to take notes for the meeting.

4. Letter to State Senator Jennifer Flanagan. Peder had previously circulated an email draft letter to State Senator Jennifer Flanagan concerning DCR's moratorium on new trail agreements, to which Jim and Marion responded with suggestions for changes. Peder will incorporate these suggestions in the final version to be sent Senator Flanagan.

5. Response to Amanda Amory. Amanda submitted a bid for work on the update to the Sterling Open Space plan, offering to do the work for \$8,000, but without maps. There was discussion as to whether Peder should invite Amanda to the May meeting of OSIC, without a clear consensus.

6-7. Open Space Plan Revisions. Marion Larson noted that most changes are needed in Chapters 3 and 5; other existing sections need minimal work (e.g. soils map). There was consensus that OSIC members should go through the existing Open Space plan and see what needs to be revised. Rob Protano noted that the town of Sterling has a claim to 8 hours of work annually from MRPC, though we do not know how many (if any) are left for OSIC to use. Marion will find out what other towns have worked with MRPC recently and see what their experience has been. The committee agreed that we need a work plan, after which we can decide whether to approach MRPC or Amanda Amory.

8. Work on Butterick Trail. Peder reported that he and Rob went around the Butterick Trail five times – trail length calculated to be .49 miles. Rob reported that the flat area at the top of the stairs was used as a playground when Butterick was still a school. Peder will try to have a draft brochure for the Butterick Nature Trail ready for our next meeting. More history information from Rob and flora/fauna information from Marion would be most useful in preparing the brochure.

9. Installation of trail kiosk at trailhead for Heywood Reservoir Trail. This item was deferred for a later meeting.

10. Parking Considerations for the Gaylord Trail. Peder reported that Barbara Roberti from the Conservation Commission can mark off three parking spaces for the Gaylord

Trail, as has been done on Tara Lane. The Sterling Land Trust has land just across the street, which might accommodate additional parking. Peder will try to arrange an on-site visit with Matt Marro from the CC in order to see exactly how the proposed parking would work.

11. Recruitment of volunteers for upcoming trail clearing events. This item was also deferred for consideration at a later meeting.

12. Landowner list for two proposed Sterling trails. Peder handed out a list of landowners associated with the two new proposed trails: Three Reservoirs Trail and Wekepeke Long trail. Discussion followed on the “right of prescription” – i.e. if a path has been in permanent use for twenty years and the owner has not objected, then that use can continue. Peder volunteered to talk with Jim French and Mike Pineo about approaching landowners associated with the two new trails.

13. New Business. Peder asked for volunteers to help finish the Butterick Trail by clearing a side trail to the Town Pound and proposed that the work be done on Monday the 18th. Rob and Jim volunteered — others welcome to join.

14. Next Meeting Date. Next OSIC meeting set for May 11th at 7 PM in the Butterick Building. Jim will be unable to attend.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Submitted by Jim Wilkinson