

OSIC MEETING MINUTES –

WEDNESDAY, October 19, 2016, 7:00 PM

Butterick Municipal Building -- Room 201

Present: Peder Pedersen, Jeff Keay, Marion Larson, Jim Wilkinson, Rob Protano

Guests: Phil Truesdell and Liz Newlands – Massachusetts Division of Wildlife and Fisheries

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM

1. Acceptance of agenda as posted for October 19, 2016
2. Unanimous approval of August 17, 2016 minutes with edits – P. Pedersen will reissue minutes with edits.
3. Note taker for the evening – J. Keay volunteered.
4. Discussion of poster for back side of Heywood Reservoir Trail kiosk. Suggestions included:
 - Including the “OSIC Sterling Trails” logo
 - Centering and increasing font for important information
 - Providing labels and short text for wildlife pictures (M. Larson will look into this)
 - Using at least one unique picture for each trail kiosk
5. Information provided by P. Truesdell (Realty Stewardship Coordinator) and L. Newlands (Stewardship Associate) concerning policies and restriction for trails, kiosks, and trail signage for the Lynde Basins Trail in the Wekepeke Watershed.
 - Noted that the Wekepeke Watershed, which is owned by Clinton, is managed by Wildlife and Fisheries as a “conservation restriction” easement
 - explained that properties under “conservation restriction” allow public access with restrictions for setting up trails (their main concern is controlling “trail density” and how it impacts wildlife and sensitive wildlife habitat)
 - provided the committee with the guidelines for trail use
 - confirmed that marking trails is permitted
 - P. Pedersen noted that we also have Clinton’s permission to mark trails
 - provided guidelines for the construction of trailhead kiosks (not to exceed 900 sq. inches)
6. Discussion of possible venues for setting up the OSIC information tent
 - felt needed additional venues besides the Farmers’ Market
 - ideas included: Sterling Fair, Rota Springs, Clear View Farm, Meadow Brook, Town-wide Yard Sale, Summer Band Concerts, Sterling Garden Club Plant Sale, Sterling Grange
 - also suggested possible permanent posters at the Conant Library, and Town Hall
7. Trail Clearing
 - P. Pedersen announced two new volunteers: Dennis Crimer and John Woodsmall
 - Fall projects: trash cleanup at Heywood Reservoir, maintenance on Stillwater Basin Trail
 - P. Pedersen will send out an email with dates for trail clearing
8. P. Pedersen has corresponded with Senator Flanagan’s office concerning permission to describe Sterling trails within the DCR Watershed. Her office has provided a DCR contact, Mike Harris. P. Pedersen will email him.

9. Request for funding of the Open Space Implementation Plan
 - Request needs to be sent in by December
 - M. Larson will draft request to be presented at the November OSIC board meeting
 - P. Pederson will send information from Amanda Amory to help with the draft
10. Recruiting members for the OSIC Committee
 - All members were asked to consider possible candidates
11. New Business
 - Consider ways to align mutual goals, interests, and priorities with the Sterling Historical Commission, and the Sterling Land Trust (i.e. renovating the West Sterling School House)
12. Next OSIC meeting scheduled for Wednesday November 16, 2016.
13. Meeting Adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Submitted by Jeff Keay