

Sterling Open Space Implementation Committee Meeting

August 8, 2013

Butterick Municipal Building -- Room 201

Present: Peder Pedersen, Marion Larson, Bob Protano, Jim Wilkinson (guest)

Meeting began with quorum at 7:25 PM

1) Acceptance of Minutes of April 18 meeting--Protano moved to accept, Pedersen seconded. All voted to accept the April 18 minutes.

2) Larson volunteered to take notes/minutes.

3) Storage for computer and projector--Larson reported she spoke with Terri Ackerman over a month ago about the issue and Ackerman said she thought a lock could be placed on an OSIC file drawer. She said she would get in touch with the facilities manager. Larson will follow up as there has been no communication since that time.

4) Lessons from the July 11 tour of the Waushacum Overlook trails. Pedersen, Wilkinson, Protano, Authur and Sue Valentine went on this walk. Pedersen noted that poison ivy was taking over many trails and that there was interest in considering spraying those areas. There was also concern that a brush hog was needed again to clear some trail areas in the more open areas and that trail markers/blazes needed rejuvenating. Larson commented that there may be legal issues on using herbicides on the property--that a licensed applicator may be needed. Many people are unaware that the chemicals they use on their own lawn cannot be used on "land of another" without a license. There was also a question about how to pay for a brush hog. Pedersen thought Sue Valentine on the ConCom had indicated that there were some funds from the Commission. Protano also thought that a private citizen, Dan Klozkowsky from Lake Waushacum had performed the previous work for either a reduced fee or for free. He also recalled Sue V had mentioned there were still some extra trail markers available. Concern was also expressed by Pedersen about liability of volunteers doing some of this work. Larson pointed out there is a statute that probably covers all parties regarding this.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Pedersen will connect with Sue V on the brush hog and poison ivy management.
- Larson will look up the statute addressing liability on land and email it to OSIC members.

5) Public Promotion of Trails -- There was a suggestion by Rob Protano that there could be a series of walk or work days on various trails. One example was the work day held by the Sterling Land Trust in early spring where people came out to work on the right of way. Originally a walk was also scheduled, but it was too much. Perhaps there could be a mix---work day for one event, alternate with a walk on another day.

6) Trail maintenance and trail connectivity. Jim Wilkinson commented on the lack of information re trail access and trail connectivity.

7) Updates--Covered by above numbered items

8) New Business--Jim Wilkinson of 16 Osgood Road is interested in serving on the committee. He needs to talk to Terri Ackerman about being appointed. Contact info: Home Phone 978-563-1415 Cell Phone 617/957-6759.

9) Next meeting date -- Walk of Heywood Reservoir September 19, 2013. Meet at Sholan Farms parking area in Leominster at 5:30 PM.

10) Meeting adjourned at 8:15