

Butterick Municipal Building -- Room 201

In attendance: Peder Pedersen, Marion Larson, Jim Wilkinson, Jeff Keay, Chuck Plaisted, Rob Protano, Deidre Shapiro (Recreation Liaison)

Meeting called to order: 7:00pm.

1. J. Wilkinson moved to accept the agenda for August 14, 2019. Motion 2nd by P. Pedersen and carried unanimously.
2. Note taker: J. Keay volunteered.
3. M. Larson moved to accept the minutes of the July 10, 2019 meeting as written. Motion 2nd by P. Pedersen and carried unanimously.
4. Timeline for Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Draft
 - M. Larson reported that the OSRP draft is ready to be sent to the following town boards and town officials for review: Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Recreation Committee, and Town Planner. Will also send to the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission. M. Larson will be in touch with the boards and will highlight the most important parts of the plan for each board to focus on. Estimates that review and feedback will take about a month. She was in contact with M. Cryan of the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services who noted that they will not be able to review the report until October.
5. Sterling Fair
 - Plan to share a booth with the Sterling Land Trust.
 - C. Plaisted received the hard copy application that he will send in.
 - Noted that there is a \$100 application fee. He will see if the fee can be waived.
 - Members signed up to setup and man the booth.
6. Master Plan Progress Report
 - C. Plaisted reported that they are working on a vision statement. He would like to recruit more members for the Open Space subcommittee.
7. Hiking Program Report
 - Expressed some concern about “slash” on the Stillwater Basin Trail due to lumbering to remove overstory, contracted by the DCR.
 - A master-list of hiking participants’ emails has been created using Dropbox.
8. Trail Maintenance
 - Scheduled trail maintenance on the Heywood Trail for August 29.

9. Stillwater Basin Trail Kiosk

Noted that Sterling Municipal Light has drilled two holes for kiosk installation.

R. Protano reported that the kiosk has been completed.

We will be installing the kiosk on August 20, with the help of Chris Tetreault.

10. Tennis Court Reconstruction

C. Plaisted reported that the project is nearing completion.

Also reported that the state earmarked \$70,000 for improvements on recreation facilities throughout the town. He will email committee members the language of the earmark.

11. Senior Center Trail

J. Keay met with Peg Spaulding and Pam Dell to walk the proposed path from the Senior Center to Peg's Nature Pond. Discussed methods for making it safe for seniors to walk, and the possibility for making it handicapped accessible.

12. New Business

P. Pedersen reported the following:

- OSIC hired Lakeview Landscaping of Lunenburg to spray for poison ivy on the trail through the Conservation Commission's Hall Avenue parcel (\$200) and do trail work in the Waushacum Overlook area (\$800).

- Conversed with S. Valentine about the following:

- Possibility of hiring Favreau Forestry to clear the vista point for Waushacum Overlook.

- The decision to hire Favreau Forestry to mow Mudgett Orchard.

- Possibility of moving the Waushacum Overlook trailhead.

- Possibility of asking the newest member of the Conservation Commission, Brianna Smith, who has geology training, to add brief geological descriptions to our trail brochures.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Meeting Adjourned at 8:58pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Jeff Keay