

Butterick Municipal Building -- Room 201

In attendance: Peder Pedersen, Marion Larson, Jim Wilkinson, Jeff Keay, Chuck Plaisted, Rob Protano

Meeting called to order: 7:00pm.

1. C. Plaisted moved to accept the agenda for October 16, 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 September 18, 2019 meeting with amendments. Motion 2nd by J. Wilkinson and carried unanimously.
4. Comments from town boards on the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Draft
 - M. Larson reported that she and C. Plaisted attended the Planning Board meeting to solicit comments in regards to the OSRP. M. Larson will reconstruct the questions and observations from the meeting to include within the plan.
 - The Recreation Department provided comments, suggestions, and specific ideas. Changes were made to the OSRP based on their feedback. M. Larson will send back the plan to the Recreation Department with the changes made, and the reasons for the changes.
 - There has been no response from the Conservation Commission. The Board of Selectman will provide comments on an informal basis.
 - M. Larson noted that we are very close to having a final version ready by the end of October. She will look into extending the contract with the MRPC for fine tuning mapping. Noted that she ran the plan past D. Tatasciore who was very helpful with editing the plan.
 - P. Pedersen provided a list of comments, suggestions, and corrections that should be made to the text of the plan.
5. Finishing the Stillwater Basin Trail kiosk
 - R. Protano has stained most of the kiosk. Will need help finishing. When completed P. Pedersen will supply the trail map and informational poster.
6. New Trail Kiosk locations
 - Pine Hill Esker – Question as to where the kiosk could be located.
 - Hard Scrabble Road
 - Parking issues need to be resolved with the Conservation Commission.
 - Discussed possibility of a kiosk at the Upper North Hill Road trailhead.
 - Hog Hill – DCR approval will be needed before a kiosk can be installed.
 - P. Pedersen will be working on a replacement poster for the kiosk at the Heywood Reservoir.
 - R. Protano has plexiglass and frames for both Heywood Reservoir and Stillwater Basin kiosks.
7. Candidates for OSIC Committee position
 - Discussed two possible candidates who have shown interest in the position.

8. Sterling Trails Facebook page

C. Plaisted noted that he has been updating our Facebook page and that there are 38 followers.

A future consideration is to link it with town's and Recreation Department's Facebook pages.

Noted that we also are maintaining our email hiking list.

9. New Business

All Boards Meeting on November 18 at 6:30pm

M. Larson and P. Pedersen will present for OSIC.

Ideas for making the OSRP user friendly

Providing an Executive Summary appropriate for particular boards or interested parties.

Would include maps and keywords. Idea of modeling on Cliff Notes.

B. Cline provided OSIC members with a copy of the Montachusett Region Trail Guide.

Open Space and Recreation subcommittee of the Sterling Master Plan Committee

M. Larson and C. Plaisted noted that the Open Space and Recreation portion of the Master Plan will be about ten pages. They will be using and distilling the OSRP to help create the plan.

Discussed possibility of OSIC members attending the DCR Masstrails Conference. The conference is on Saturday, November 2nd with workshops on October 31 and November 1.

R. Protano noted that a presentation of the Housing Production Plan will take place on Wednesday, October 30 at 6:00pm at the Town Hall.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Jeff Keay