

Butterick Municipal Building -- Room 201

In attendance: Peder Pedersen, Jim Wilkinson, Jeff Keay, Chuck Plaisted

Guest: Geoff Caldwell

Meeting called to order: 7:00pm.

1. J. Wilkinson moved to accept the agenda for November 20, 2019. Motion 2nd by P. Pedersen and carried unanimously.
2. Note taker: J. Keay volunteered.
3. C. Plaisted moved to accept the minutes of the October 16, 2019 meeting as written. Motion 2nd by P. Pedersen and carried unanimously.
4. Update on the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Draft
 - By email, M. Larson reported that the Montachusett Regional Planning Council (MRPC) had finished its updates to the mapping for the OSRP.
 - She will be making sure the edits have been completed and then submit the OSRP draft to M. Cryan at the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services.
5. Peg's Pond Trail Proposal
 - Looking to construct an ADA compliant trail from the Sterling Senior to Peg's pond, and continue to circumnavigate the pond.
 - C. Plaisted provided a map showing the proposed path. The map contains notations pointing out dimensions, site contours, trail surfaces, and improvements needed to make the trail ADA compatible.
 - C. Plaisted discussed the proposed route with Matt Marro who will bring the proposal before the ADA Review Committee. Also discussed with Ross Perry, who suggested researching a similar project undertaken in Stowe.
 - C. Plaisted attended a Massachusetts Trails Conference workshop focusing on ideas for grants and other funding opportunities.
6. Trail Kiosks Update
 - Kiosk at Stillwater Basin Trail
 - The staining of the kiosk is almost complete. R. Protano and J. Keay will be completing the job.
 - P. Pedersen has completed the maps and information panels for the kiosk and has sent them on to R. Protano.
7. All Boards Meeting
 - P. Pedersen and M. Larson presented a report of OSIC activities.
 - P. Pedersen noted that the following information about our activities was reported at the meeting:
 - Updating the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

- Mapping of the Pine Hill Esker and Allenwood Trails.
- Communication efforts through the publishing and distribution of Sterling Trails brochures and maintaining an information booth at the Sterling Fair.
- Working with other town committees (i.e. Conservation Commission, Recreation Committee).
- Working with Senior Center to develop a trail from the Senior Center to Peg's Pond, and working to develop a program of senior hikes.

8. Scheduling Trail Maintenance

- Noted need for trail maintenance on the Pine Hill Esker, Waushacum Overlook and Butterick Nature Trails.
- Scheduled trail work on the Pine Hill Esker Trail for Sunday December 8 at 10:00am.
- Discussed idea of recruiting scouts to work with us on the Butterick Nature Trail.

9. Hardscrabble Road Kiosk Parking

- P. Pedersen presented maps and photographs of the Hardscrabble Road trailhead. Noted a potential parking area for 4 to 6 cars on Sterling Land Trust property. Pointed out that some leveling and road improvements would be necessary. Question as to who would pay for the improvements: P. Pedersen will check on this.

10. New Business

- 2020 OSIC Budget
 - Estimates of future expenditures
 - Sterling Fair - \$100
 - Printing of trail brochures - \$500
 - Printing additional copies of the OSRP.
 - Felt this expenditure should come out of the money budgeted for the OSRP.
 - J. Wilkinson will prepare a budget for the next meeting.
 - Members will let him know of any additional budget items (i.e. repair of town pound).
- Mapping Considerations
 - Improve the Historic Guide to Sterling Center.
 - Create a map showing all of the Sterling Trails.
 - Discussed possibility of including it on the Sterling GIS map.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 18 at 7:00pm

Meeting Adjourned at 8:04pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Jeff Keay