

Butterick Municipal Building -- Room 201

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

Guest: Geoff Caldwell

Meeting called to order: 7:00pm.

1. M. Larson moved to accept the agenda for December 18, 2019. Motion 2nd by J. Wilkinson and carried unanimously.
2. Note taker: J. Keay volunteered.
3. M. Larson moved to accept the minutes of the November 20, 2019 meeting as written. Motion 2nd by P. Pedersen and carried unanimously.
4. OSIC budget for FY 2020
J. Wilkinson reported that we have an annual budget of \$1500.
Planned expenditures:
 - Two brush hooks - \$200
 - New kiosk - \$600
 - Booth rental for Sterling Fair - \$100
 - Printing trail brochures - \$500
 - Miscellaneous expenses - \$100M. Larson moved to approve the proposed expenditures. Motion 2nd by J. Wilkinson and carried unanimously.
5. OSIC outreach to Jamie Carr (Regional Director, DCR Division of Water Supply Protection)
P. Pedersen has been in correspondence with Jamie Carr and has invited him to our January 15th committee meeting. Topics we'd like to discuss with him include:
 - maintaining mapped trails on DCR properties (i.e. grass cutting).
 - permission to build a hiking bridge on the Pine Esker Trail over Rocky Brook.
 - This would allow us to extend the trail to Beaman Road.Extended discussions included:
 - Looking at the Sudbury River Access Plan as a model of "open access".Exploring the possibility of coordinating our Saturday hikes with those sponsored by DCR.
6. Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Update submittal date
M. Larson reported that she passed on the OSRP draft to M. Cryan of the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services for her review.
 - Noted that we need to wait until we hear back from her, to see if any changes or additions are needed.

7. Trail Kiosks Update – Stillwater Basin and Hardscrabble Road Trails

Kiosk at Stillwater Basin Trailhead still needs staining to be completed.

Kiosk at Hardscrabble Road Trailhead

- P. Pedersen and M. Larson will discuss placing a kiosk at the trailhead, along with expanding the area for parking, with the Sterling Land Trust. Issues include:
 - Determining boundaries and any permissions needed.
 - Looking into costs. Explore the possibility of grants and sharing expenses.

8. Email hiking schedule for winter 2020

P. Pedersen, C. Plaisted, and J. Keay have put together a hiking schedule for those who are on our email hiking list. We will not be offering any public hikes over the winter.

9. MRPC map of Sterling Formal Trail Inventory

C. Plaisted checked the Sterling Formal Trail Inventory map.

Noted that the Hardscrabble and Pine Esker Trails were not included.

Also noted that the trail routes shown are broad representations and not detailed.

C. Plaisted will email the map to all members of the committee.

10. Maintaining published hiking trails

Need to establish what we are trying to accomplish.

- i.e. clearing and marking trails

Discussed the importance of finding a systematic approach to trail maintenance.

- idea of a checklist for each trail
 - i.e. trail width, flooded or wet areas, blow downs
- importance of establishing standards

Need to know what we have permission to do.

G. Caldwell will work on a checklist we can refer to.

11. New Business

Annual Report

M. Larson will get the specs and send to C. Plaisted.

Trail Brochures

P. Pedersen reported that the Allen Wood Trail brochure has been finished.

The Hog Hill Trail brochure needs to be updated.

- P. Pedersen noted that he has the ability to edit the brochure on the Sterling Town Website.

C. Plaisted reported that the overlook on the Waushacum Overlook Trail has been cleared.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 15 at 7:00pm

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Jeff Keay