

Via Zoom

In attendance: Peder Pedersen, Jim Wilkinson, Jeff Keay, Chuck Plaisted, Rob Protano, Sue Valentine (Conservation Commission Liaison)

Meeting called to order: 7:10pm.

1. R. Protano moved to accept the agenda for June 17, 2020. Motion 2nd by J. Wilkinson and carried unanimously.
2. Note taker: J. Keay volunteered.
3. R. Protano moved to accept the minutes of the May 20, 2020 meeting as written. Motion 2nd and carried unanimously.
4. Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Update Progress
P. Pedersen checked with M. Larson. Some progress has been made to finish updating the OSRP but it is not completed. M. Larson is waiting for feedback concerning the ADA portion of the plan.
5. Trail Blazing at Wauschacum Meadows
P. Pedersen walked the trail and noted that the Mudgett Orchard section had been mowed, but more work needed to be done. R. Portano will mention this to P. Lyons at the DPW.
Noted that the trail through the orchard needs to be marked before the DPW could mow it. C. Plaisted volunteered to mark the trail.
Discussed the possibility of a kiosk where the trail intersects with North Cove Road.
S. Valentine noted that blazes have been ordered by the Conservation Commission for the Hall Parcel portion of the trail, and she will notify us when they are received. Also said they are looking into the construction of an observation tower at the Rittenhouse family orchard that abuts Mudgett Orchard, using grant money, or as a project for Monty Tech students.
Discussed idea of relocating informative signs from Mudgett Orchard to the trail in the Hall Parcel.
6. Trail Maintenance
P. Pedersen reported that he and D. Pedersen performed maintenance on the Butterick Nature Trail, and that most of the trail is in good shape. Exception is poison ivy at the entrance that he will be clearing.
Discussed possibility of a foot bridge on the Heywood Reservoir Trail over the outflow from the reservoir.
7. Status of Peg's Pond Trail Project
S. Valentine has been discussing the possibility of re-introducing the water feature to Peg's Nature Pond with Sterling Municipal Light and M. Packard of Sterling Greenery. Discovered that electric cost for the pump is about \$1,000/year. Questions as to who would pay.
J. Keay reported that we are waiting to hear from both the Community Foundation of North Central

Massachusetts (CFNCM) and the AARP Community Grant program to see if our grant proposals have been accepted. The CFNCM was scheduled to notify us June 12 but have sent no word, and the AARP is scheduled for July 6.

8. Trail Etiquette Signs

Looked over and discussed Tips For Trails signage used by the North Quabbin Trails Association.

Discussed the need to add information related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

J. Wilkinson will edit and send the edited copy to committee members for the next meeting.

9. Restarting the Hiking Program

Decided to wait until Phase 3 of the Massachusetts opening sequence. The tentative date of starting will be the beginning of July.

Agreed that we will schedule weekday as well as weekend hikes.

P. Pedersen will put together guidelines for the hikes.

10. New Business

None was brought up.

11. Next Meeting – July 15, 2020 at 7:00pm.

12. Adjournment

R. Protano moved to adjourn: 2nd by J. Wilkinson.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Jeff Keay