

**Via Zoom**

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

Absent: Marion Larson, Geoffrey Caldwell

Meeting called to order: 7:20pm.

1. R. Protano moved to accept the agenda for July 15, 2020. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Wilkinson and carried unanimously.
2. Note taker: J. Keay volunteered.
3. R. Protano moved to accept the minutes of the June 17, 2020 meeting with amendments. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by P. Pedersen and carried unanimously.
4. Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Update Progress
  - P. Pedersen and C. Plaisted will research what is needed to achieve final state approval of our OSRP.
  - P. Pedersen will check with M. Cryan from the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services.
5. Trail Blazing at Wauschacum Meadows
  - Discussed need for mowing a path around the Mudgett Orchard section of the Wauschacum Meadows Trail.
  - Noted that the path leading up to the orchard has poison ivy that should be sprayed.
6. Trail Maintenance
  - Discussed the need to prioritize trail work, and whether it should be based on the amount of work required on a trail, or by the popularity of a trail.
  - Noted a possible contact willing to help with trail maintenance.
  - Noted the work done by P. Pedersen to provide a detailed table listing each trail, and the maintenance needed.
  - Reported that the kiosk at the Heywood Trail needs work: replacing plexiglass and securing existing signage. Also, adding signage as regards Covid-19 and trail etiquette. R. Protano will check for possible areas available on the kiosk to accommodate additional signage.
7. Peg's Pond Trail Grants Progress
  - J. Keay announced that we had received a \$10,000 grant from the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts for the Peg's Pond Trail project. He also announced that we had not received the grant from the AARP Community Challenge. This leaves us short \$13,000.
  - Talked about different ways to deal with the short fall.
  - C. Plaisted will call a meeting of those working on the project to discuss possible next steps.

8. Appropriate Trail Etiquette Signs

J. Wilkinson composed text for signs to be displayed at trail heads detailing appropriate trail etiquette. He will email the text of the signs to OSIC members for possible editing.

9. Restarting the Hiking Program

Consensus to restart carefully: limiting hikes to only a few hikers.

P. Pedersen, C. Plaisted, and J. Keay agreed to lead the hikes.

10. Responding to complaint letter to Board of Selectmen from private land owner

Complaint dealt with dangerous dog behavior on private land owned by N. Miller on the Allenwood Trail, and further that our trail signage and trail brochure did not include dog owner responsibilities.

P. Pedersen reported that he and D. Pedersen had updated the brochure to the satisfaction of N. Miller. Also reported that dog regulations for the trail are now posted on the Sterling Town Website.

11. Sign Posts for the Allenwood/Lynde Basin Trails

P. Pedersen and C. Plaisted discussed with the committee their plans for sign posts on the Allenwood Trail (that incorporates sections of the Lynde Basin Trail).

Noted the sign posts used on the Monoosnoc Trail, that are installed by the Leominster Trail Stewards, provide a useful model for us to work from. P. Pedersen will contact them.

C. Plaisted will confer with private land owner N. Miller concerning the installation of trail posts that would be on her property.

12. Master Plan Consultant

C. Plaisted reported that a consulting firm, VHB, has been contracted to work with the Master Planning Committee. He further relayed that they are going to need a great deal of community input.

13. New Business

R. Protano announced that the picnic table planned to be made for Sholan Park will be delayed until the spring of 2021.

14. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, August 19 at 7:00pm, via Zoom.

15. Adjournment:

R. Protano moved to adjourn: 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Wilkinson and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Jeff Keay