

**Via Zoom**

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

Meeting called to order: 7:04pm.

1. C. Plaisted started the meeting by asking if anyone was recording the meeting. All members replied in the negative.
2. R. Protano moved to accept the agenda for November 18, 2020. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Wilkinson and carried unanimously.
3. Note taker: J. Keay volunteered.
4. C. Plaisted moved to accept the minutes of the October 21, 2020 meeting as written. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Wilkinson and carried unanimously.
5. Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Update Progress

C. Plaisted reported that the plan has received final approval from M. Cryan of The Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services. Noted that this allows the town to apply for certain grants that are not available without an approved OSRP. The committee thanked C. Plaisted, P. Pedersen, and M. Larson, as well as the support of town officials, who contributed their time and expertise to produce the finished report.

Discussed printing and distributing copies of the report. J. Wilkinson reported that there is \$6,800 available in the OSRP account that we could use for printing expenses. C. Plaisted will look into printing the report. Also discussed ways of formatting the report for the town website.
6. Peg's Pond Trail Grants and Construction Progress

J. Keay reported that our grant proposal to the Fields Pond Foundation was not accepted. He looked into the possibility of applying for a MassTrails grant, but after feedback from A. Lewis, the plan's administrator, it does not look promising.

Discussed other possibilities for funding; including from the Friends of Sterling Seniors and the Conservation Commission. C. Plaisted and J. Keay will look into these possibilities.

J. Keay reported that the DPW has recently cleared and graded the first section of the trail.
7. Appropriate Trail Etiquette Signs

J. Wilkinson read the most recent draft of the text. The committee agreed to accept the text as written. P. Pedersen will ask D. Pedersen to design the sign. It will then be printed, laminated, and posted at all Sterling Trail trailheads.
8. Trail Maintenance Updates

P. Pedersen reported that trail maintenance has taken place on the following trails: Heywood

Reservoir, Hog Hill and Stillwater Basin. Also reported that he has spoken to M. Marro about the logging scheduled for the Swett Hill Parcel of the Wauschacum Trail. The logging will be done after the ground freezes to keep the impact to a minimum.

J. Keay reported that logging on the Stillwater Basin Trail appears to be finished. The trail has been cleared of any slash.

9. Sterling Master Plan Progress

C. Plaisted reported that work on the Master Plan is steadily progressing. No specific timeline has been established, but they do plan on completing the plan in fifteen months. He also noted that there has been a lot of activity on the Sterling Trails, and that residents at the Master Plan open house displayed a lot of support for the trails.

10. Mass Central Rail Trail – MASSDOT feasibility study

C. Plaisted reported that there are plans to extend the Sterling spur to Chocksett Road. There are also plans to extend the trail on the main corridor from Oakdale, through Sterling and into Clinton. He noted that MASSDOT was using the recommendations provided by Wachusett Greenways.

11. New Business

Discussed personnel matters.

12. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 7:00pm via Zoom.

13. Adjournment: C. Plaisted moved to adjourn. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Wilkinson and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Jeff Keay