

OSIC Meeting Minutes – January 19, 2022 7:00 PM

In attendance: Chuck Plaisted, Jeff Keay, Paul Lekberg, Peder Pedersen, Rob Protano

Meeting called to order: 7:02pm.

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 January 19, 2022. Motion 2nd by P. Pedersen and carried unanimously.
3. Note taker: J. Keay volunteered.
4. R. Protano moved to accept the minutes of the November 17, 2021 meeting as written. Motion 2nd by P. Lekberg and carried unanimously.
5. Peg's Pond Trail Progress
 - C. Plaisted reported that the Mass Trails Grant might be a possibility for funding, as the trail will be ADA compliant. He will apply for the grant. He estimates we will need \$60,000 to \$80,000 in funding to complete construction of the trail.
 - Because the grant is "reimbursable" we will need monies up front for the project.
 - Discussion of preparing a warrant for the next town meeting asking for funding for the project.
 - Agreed that we should ask for full funding, as we will not know if grant money will be available. We will ask the Senior Center director to be a co-sponsor of the warrant.
 - J. Keay listed other possible grant opportunities including from the Fields Pond Foundation, and the PARC Grant. The Massachusetts Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program is open for FY2022, so he will submit an application for that grant.
 - C. Plaisted reported that he walked the trail with R. Mouradian of the DPW, who offered to have the DPW install a culvert to prevent further erosion of the wooded section of the trail. They would also use the remaining stone dust to repair the current damage to the trail, and extend the trail to the Senior Center parking lot.
6. Stillwater Basin Trail re-route
 - J. Keay reported that he has put new signage on the trail to make it clear that the ridge section of the trail is closed as it crosses private property. He also put in signage to guide hikers to the newly completed trail reroute.
7. Allenwood Trail re-route
 - C. Plaisted will reengage with a private landowner to make sure they are comfortable with our plans to reroute the Allenwood Trail.
 - Discussed the importance of working to obtain a Memo of Understanding with a landowner when a trail goes through their property.

8. Preparation for Warrant Item to seek funding for the Peg's Pond Trail
 - See agenda item 5.
9. Sterling Trails Facebook page update
 - C. Plaisted will contact E. Rehrig to see if she can update our Facebook page so hikers can report trail issues such as downed trees, flooding, and other obstructions on a trail. He noted that tree falls have been reported on the Waushacum Overlook Trail.
10. New Business
 - C. Plaisted reported that the Conservation Commission will be applying for a Mass Trails Grant to improve the extension of the Waushacum Overlook Trail from the Sterling Town Beach to Mudgett Orchard. C. Plaisted will work with the DPW to see if they can periodically mow the orchard.
11. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 7:00pm.
12. Adjournment: C. Plaisted moved to adjourn. Motion 2nd by R. Protano and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Jeff Keay