

## OSIC Meeting Minutes – January 25, 2023 7:30 PM via Zoom

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

Meeting called to order: 7:32 PM

1. C. Plaisted began by asking if anyone was recording the meeting. All those present replied in the negative.
2. P. Pedersen moved to accept the agenda for January 25, 2023. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Wilkinson and carried unanimously.
3. Note taker: J. Keay volunteered.
4. P. Pedersen moved to accept the minutes of the December 7, 2022 meeting as written. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by P. Lekberg and carried unanimously.
5. Peg's Pond Trail Progress:
  - C. Plaisted reported there has been no further progress at this time.
6. Trail maintenance report:
  - P. Pedersen reported that the Pine Hill Esker trail needs some minor cleanup. Also reported that there is a day's worth of necessary tree work needed on the Lynde Basin Trail.
  - P. Lekberg will be checking the Heywood Reservoir Trail, as he suspects there is a lot of blowdowns and debris after recent snow and high winds.
7. Recent meeting with Town Planner to discuss MassTrail Grant opportunities
  - C. Plaisted reported that Sterling Town Planner, Stephen Wallace, relayed the information that there is state money available for trail connectivity proposals. Although we have discussed how to connect our trails with those in abutting towns, the committee felt that trails between communities was more the purview of groups such as the Montachusett Regional Planning Committee.
8. Wachusett Greenways plans for the extension of the Sterling Spur.
  - Discussion of a proposed extension of the Sterling Rail Trail spur north into Leominster. Colleen Abrams, president of Wachusett Greenways has been researching this and has grant money. She will be meeting with the Town Manager about her proposal early in February. The committee discussed the possibility of inviting C. Abrams to one of our future meetings, to hear what her plans are for the spur extension.

9. Lynde Basin Trail reroute

- P. Pedersen reported he has determined a viable path around the flooding caused by beaver activity. He clarified that it will take a lot of work, and that we may need some professional help.

10. Budget Request to the Finance Committee

- Committee members suggested that we increase our yearly budget request from \$1,500 to \$2,500. Rational for this would include overall inflation and an increase in the number of trails maintained by OSIC.
- Also suggested that we make a capital appropriation request of \$10,000. This would be for the costs of clearing a new trail around the beaver flooding, the Stillwater Trail water bar installation or reroute, and a bridge across the Heywood Reservoir outlet stream. Noted that we could reduce the amount needed to between \$5,000 to \$7,500 if we can use volunteers, such as the local Boy Scout troop.
- Committee members will be submitting ideas for how the capital appropriations could be used. They will list the projects and the cost of those projects to C. Plaisted and J. Wilkinson.
- The question arose as to the possibility of using \$6,400 left over from the funding for the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). C. Plaisted asked this of L. Shepard, chair of the Capital Budget Committee, who said the money could only be used for the OSRP.
- Some estimates of possible expenses were discussed including; \$500 for trail signs imploring hikers to leave no trash behind, and 2 new kiosks, for the Peg's Pond Trail and the Hall Parcel section of the Waushacum Overlook Trail, at \$600/kiosk.

11. New Business

- J. Keay asked if there were plans to deal with the constant flooding on the lowest section of the Peg's Pond trail. C. Plaisted has talked with R. Mouradian, and was told that the DPW will be constructing a drain for that section.

12. Next Meeting Date: It was agreed that the next meeting date will be February 15, 2023 at 7:00pm.

13. Adjournment: P. Pederson moved to adjourn. Seconded by R. Protano. The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted: Jeff Keay