

OSIC Meeting Minutes – February 15, 2023 7:00 PM

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

Meeting called to order: 7:07pm

1. C. Plaisted began by asking if anyone was recording the meeting. All those present replied in the negative.
2. R. Protano moved to accept the agenda for February 15, 2023. Motion 2nd by J. Wilkinson and carried unanimously.
3. Note taker: J. Keay volunteered.
4. R. Protano moved to accept the minutes of the January 25, 2023 meeting as written. Motion 2nd by J. Wilkinson and carried unanimously.
5. Finance Committee Meeting to review OSIC budget and capital request
 - C. Plaisted reported that he had gone before the Finance Committee and L. Shepard, chair of the Capital Budget Committee. He asked for an increase of the annual OSIC budget to \$2,500 and also requested \$5,500 for capital spending. The capital request would be:
 - \$3,000 to construct a bridge over the Heywood Reservoir outlet.
 - \$1,500 for two trailhead kiosks.
 - \$500 for "Leave no Trace" signs at all Sterling trailheads.
 - We won't know the committees' decisions until the town meeting warrant is issued.
 - The question was raised as to when the \$55,000 appropriated at the last town meeting for the Peg's Pond Trail needs to be used. Tentative plans are for work to begin this spring.
6. Report on meeting with Colleen Abrams, Steve Wallace, Blaine Bershad, Brian Cline
 - C. Plaisted, P. Pedersen, and P. Lekberg attended the meeting for OSIC.
 - At the meeting the proposed extension of the Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT) from the Cider Mill complex to Chocksett Road was discussed.
 - B. Cline noted that the prospect of working out agreements for right of ways of with private landowners looked good.
 - Primary issues were how to pass over Maple Street and the Route 12/Route 62 intersection. Various ideas were discussed.
 - Discussed possible benefits to the downtown with increased foot traffic.
 - Reported that state funds are available to fund the construction.
 - Noted that private funds are a possibility for extending the trail to Leominster.
 - The meeting participants toured sections of the proposed route.

7. Peg's Pond Trail and Wauschacum Meadow Trail Kiosks
 - C. Plaisted reported, through S. Valentine, that the Conservation Commission will be erecting a kiosk for the Wauschacum Meadow Trail.
 - R. Protano noted that \$750 was needed for materials to construct a kiosk for Peg's Pond Trail.
 - C. Plaisted moved that we approve \$750 to be used to purchase materials needed for the Peg's Pond Trail Kiosk. Seconded by J. Wilkinson and approved unanimously.
8. QR codes for accessing detailed trail information on a mobile phone
 - Discussed possibility of posting a QR code at each kiosk.
 - The QR code would bring up information for the trail at which it's posted.
 - Would be an alternative to the use of brochures.
 - P. Lekberg will look into making stickers with the QR codes.
9. New Business
 - Peg's Pond Trail
 - C. Plaisted was notified by S. Valentine that the construction of the memorial brick wall will be a first priority as a project for Monty Tech students this spring.
 - Will need to buy bricks to fit in with the existing memorial bricks.
 - A list of needed materials and their costs is being invoiced and will be submitted to the town.
 - Noted that there is a possibility for a donation of shade trees.
 - The Recreation Department asked if there would be a place for tiles painted by children. Discussed possible placements for the tiles.
 - Trail Maintenance
 - P. Lekberg reported that many large trees had fallen across the Lynde Basin Trail.
 - Discussed having Clinton clear the trees as they own the property.
 - C. Plaisted, P. Pedersen, and P. Lekberg will walk the trail on Friday February 17, locate where trees are down, assess the needs for clearing them and report their findings to the Clinton Town Administrator, M. Ward.
10. Next Meeting Date: It was agreed that the next meeting date will be March 15, 2023 at 7:00pm.
11. Adjournment: R. Protano moved to adjourn. Seconded by P. Lekberg. The meeting adjourned at 8:16pm.

Respectfully submitted: Jeff Keay