

**Sterling Open Space Implementation Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**March 23, 2016**  
**Butterick Building, Park Street, Sterling**

**Members Present:** Peder Pedersen, Jim Wilkinson, Bob Protano, Erin Rehrig, Marion Larson

**Meeting Began at 7:05PM**

**1-3 Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes:** Jim made a motion to accept January minutes, Marion seconded. There was a unanimous vote to approve minutes as amended. E. Rehrig took notes.

**4. DCR Moratorium for new trail agreements-** We got another no from John Scannell. Peter will meet with Jim French to get his opinion. We are going to explore possible options, including contacting our state legislator, Jennifer Flanagan. Peter will draft a letter. We need to check with the DCR website to see if any of our trails are already listed or posted. According to our 2011 access plan, we can hike, clear trails, group hike (with 25 people or less, otherwise permission is needed). DCR does not want us to publish our trail information.

**5. Implementation of staggered 3 year terms for OSIC members-** We received letters from Kama Jayne to sign to indicate our intent to stay on OSIC for another year. As a group, we voted that we would like to start the 3-year staggered program immediately. Erin Rehrig and Jim Wilkinson will serve 3 year terms, Marion Larsen and Rob Protano will serve 2 year terms, and Peder Pedersen will serve a 1 year term. We are to fill out the forms from Kama and write that we wish to extend the term for the specified years.

**6 & 7. Budget & Revisions for the Open Space Plan-** This is a 7-year plan. We got a quote from the MRPC for \$14K, which was too much. We may not need as much work and we can do some of the updates ourselves. We need updated maps. Marion sent out an email with items in Table of Contents that will need to be updated. Peder suggested contacting Amanda Amory to help. She helped write the plan last time. Erin will look at the digital files on CD and determine what can be amended easily.

**8. Upcoming trail clearing and trail blazing events-** Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9 AM at Hapgood Rd. (Heywood Reservoir trail) off of Upper North Row. We should advertise as an Earth Day activity and call for volunteers in the Meetinghouse News.

**9. Trail Kiosks-** We need to decide where to put the 2 we have so that Marion can contact Bill Tuttle for help.

**10. Parking for Hardscrabble Rd. –** We need to speak with ConCom. We can currently park 2-3 cars at the end of the road, but we need to talk to the Sterling Land Trust about parking. An informal conversation or agenda item might be best.

**11. Planning new Sterling Trails-** We still need to update the brochures for the existing trails. Marion needs to do a fauna report for the Rail Trail and Heywood Reservoir. Erin needs to do the flora for the Rail Trail (and Stillwater Basin Trail- but that is on hold until further notice from the DCR). Peder mapped out new trails near the Wekepeke and off Heywood Rd. that are 5.43 and 5.67 miles, respectively. We need to find out which parcels and abutments are private and public.

**12. New Business-** Marion mentioned that Fisheries and Wildlife Services and Clinton are putting out contracts to develop a Management Plan for the Wekepeke area. Peder will send her digital files/maps to Marion. Joe Rodgers, former chair of the Wekepeke Watershed Restoration Initiative, may also have information.

**Next Meeting Date:** April 13 at 7 PM at the Butterick Building.

**Meeting Adjourned 8:50 PM.**