

Butterick Municipal Building -- Room 201

Present: Jim Wilkinson, Peder Pedersen, Jeff Keay, Erin Rehrig, Rob Protano, Marion Larsen

Meeting began at 7:00 PM

1. Acceptance of agenda for April 12 2017- Jim motioned to accept minutes, Marion seconded
2. Approval of March 22, 2017 minutes- Minor changes made regarding wording for the open space plan. Jim motioned to accept minutes Marion seconded.
3. Note taker for the evening – Erin Rehrig took notes for the meeting.
4. Finalizing survey questionnaire. Some typographical errors were fixed. Also, could we find a way to put this questionnaire online or as a downloadable PDF? Jim provided some additional samples of surveys from other towns with opening paragraphs describing the purpose of the survey and how long it will take to complete. Also, could we entice people to take it if they were entered into a raffle? We discussed other methods for distributing the survey besides putting it in the Meetinghouse News which would be almost \$600, unless we just write an article and publish the link in the newspaper. Other suggestions and edits by the committee were made to the document. . We went through the document line by line and made all the necessary changes.. Peder had to get this to Amrith Kumar by Friday.
5. Peder will draft a half page ad for the Meeting house news pointing to the Open Space Survey that we will post online as a PDF.
6. Peder completed the poster for the back of the Kiosk for the Heywood Reservoir Trail. Minor edits need to be made, but overall it looks very good.
7. Peder corresponded with Mike Harris, Director of Governmental Affairs at DCR regarding our advertising the Stillwater basin trail. They are willing to let us do this.
8. Peder will email Bill Tuttle to set up the next kiosk installation. They need to go to Heywood Rd. to mark where it will go.
9. We need to blaze the Lynde Basin trail. The events were cancelled due to snow. We will table this until the next meeting.
10. Website ideas from Princeton OSIC- They joked that they plagiarized from our website. We should look at their website and discuss at our next meeting.
11. New business- Marion met with the Recreation Committee to discuss the Open Space Plan. One of the biggest issues is that the recreational and playing fields for organized sports in Sterling are being used so often that they do not have enough time to rest and recover. One reason is because of the increased number of sports and now many have both winter and spring leagues. They would like to look for opportunities to acquire more

fields. They are considering reassessing their fees for recreation use facilities. The tennis courts need some TLC. They need to update their rental policy for facilities as well. There was talk about a splash park as a dream.

Marion sent out an email asking for letters of support from the Conservation Commission about supporting our budget request for the Open Space Plan at the town meeting. She is waiting a response. She also asked for a letter from the Historical Commission. That request has been forwarded to the 1835 Town Hall Committee.

Peder met with Jim French to explore additional trail opportunities. They will be meeting to scout the Pine Hill Esker Trail and the Hog Hill Trail off of 140.

The town meeting is on May 1. It is suggested that we will all attend as a sign of solidarity.

12. Next meeting date- Wed. May 17, 2017.

13. Adjourn- Erin motioned to adjourn, Peder seconded. Meeting ended at 9:03 PM.

Submitted by Erin Rehrig