

**Butterick Municipal Building -- Room 201**

In attendance: Peder Pedersen, Rob Protano, Jim Wilkinson, Erin Rehrig, Marion Larson, and Jeff Keay

Guest: Veronica Buckley

Meeting start time: 7:00

1. Acceptance of agenda for December 13, 2017.
2. Approval of November 15, 2017 minutes as written.
3. Note taker: Jeff Keay volunteered.
4. Survey responses:
  - J. Wilkinson reports a total of 46 completed surveys received: 39 online, 7 hard copies.
    - Highest interests were access to open space, protecting water resources, and preserving open space and natural habitats.
    - Most desired recreational venues were hiking trails, the rail trail, public land, and town beach.
    - Popular recreational activities were hiking, walking on roads, and wildlife observation.
    - J. Wilkinson will send the committee the full results.
5. Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) revisions
  - M. Larson will continue attempts to communicate with A. Amory concerning progress
  - To make sure revisions are completed in a timely manner M. Larson will research alternatives.
6. Discussions with Veronica Buckley, Sterling Senior Center Director
  - Discussed use of senior center as a venue for the required OSRP public meeting.
    - Asked about availability in March or April. She will let us know of dates that won't work, so we can schedule a date when space will be available.
    - She noted that as a town committee there is no charge for our use of the center.
  - Discussed informing senior center patrons about the OSRP survey.
    - She felt that providing a hardcopy of the survey would be far more effective than informing patrons of the online version.
    - She suggested we bring the surveys to the monthly pancake breakfast on February 23.
    - The committee agreed. OSIC members will be the "celebrity servers".
7. Budget Report
  - J. Wilkinson provided the committee with an itemized report of assets and expenses for the "OSRP update" and "normal" activities. Assets remaining include: \$9,032 in our "update" budget and \$2700 in our "normal" budget (monies provided by town warrant).
  - Future expenses using town warrant monies include: trail brochures, kiosk materials, and trail maintenance tools.
8. Landscaping at Trail Kiosks
  - M. Larson provided a list of criteria for landscaping and accompanying signs at trail kiosks.
  - Discussed the list, and provided additional ideas and recommendations.

9. Wauchacum Trail Update

P. Pedersen has marked a potential trail link from Town Beach to Mudget Orchard.

P. Pedersen, J. Keay, Brian Cline, and Sue Valentine walked the trail which is on Conservation Commission Land, and discussed future actions.

The OSIC trail would be an independent trail.

OSIC and the Conservation Commission will be responsible for notifying neighbors.

10. Guided Hike Initiative

Noted that Princeton Open Space Committee has guided hikes announced on their website.

P. Pedersen, J. Keay, and M. Larson volunteered to plan and lead Sterling hikes.

10. New Business

New Trail Initiatives

P. Pedersen mapped a potential new trail skirting Fitch Basin, Fall Brook and Heywood Reservoirs. He provided a draft of a brochure. The trail will be called the Three Reservoirs Trail.

11. Next Meeting Date: January 17, 2018

13. Adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Jeff Keay