

OSIC Meeting Minutes – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018, 7:07 PM

**Butterick Municipal Building -- Room 201**

**Present: Peder Pedersen, Jim Wilkinson, Marion Larsen, Rob Protano, Erin Rehrig, Chuck Plaisted**

1. Acceptance of agenda for March 21, 2018, Marion Accepted, Jim Seconded, all were in favor
2. Note taker for the evening – Erin Rehrig
3. Approval of February 21, 2018 minutes (attached)- Item 5, Amend: Add that Ross Perry came into our last meeting and confirmed that OSIC has signing authority on the contract. Marion moved to accept the minutes as amended, Peder seconded, all were in favor.
4. OSIC survey update- Jim updated us on the survey. We now have 86 surveys completed (41 on-line, 45 paper). There is consensus that maintaining Sterling's rural and historic character and protecting water resources are still a high priority, however, providing adequate recreation facilities dropped slightly. There were a few write-in comments, one specifically requesting dog-friendly trails. Chuck inquired as to what "protecting" natural resources really meant because the survey question is vague. However, this might be a consequence of having a short survey.
5. Final venue and date for required Open Space public meeting- Marion is going to contact the Sterling Senior Center to see if Saturday, April 21 or Saturday, April 28 at 10 AM are available.
6. Logistics (advertisement, refreshments, possible hike, etc) for Open Space public meeting – We need to advertise in both the Landmark and the Meetinghouse News. There is supposed to be an April 11 edition of the SMN, which we would need to submit our article/advertisement before April 6. We discussed asking the light department to advertise it on their sign and then also doing "email blasts" to the various departments. Peder will draft a letter for the newspapers and Marion will draft the invitational email to go to the town departments.
7. Content development for PowerPoint presentation at Open Space public meeting - We may have to form a sub-committee or "working group" to work on the powerpoint presentation for the open space meeting. We will be having an ad-hoc meeting on April 2 at 6:30 PM. Peder will reserve room 201.
8. Progress report for the Open Space and Recreation Plan update- Marion sent Judi a lot of information for the open space plan and also spoke with the recreation department. Task 5 is now complete (Recreation Program Completion Statistics). Marion also received information from FWS about fish and the DPW about water. These data helped fill in some of the gaps that were in section 3. Ross Perry, Town Administrator, emailed Marion Larson asking we needed an

additional \$10K similar to last year's article. We discussed this as a group and decided that it is unnecessary this year. Marion continues waiting on responses from the Conservation Commission to continue collecting information so we can expend our monies.

9. Landscaping signs at trail kiosks-Rob's grandson is not going to landscape the areas. Peder suggested we ask the Garden Club or the DPW to landscape these areas (of course, using native plants).
10. Contribution of 'favorite hikes' from hike leaders- Jeff Keay emailed that he would like to do a moonlight hike. Peder suggested that Hog Hill Trail might be a good venue for this. Marion suggested a woodcock or whippoorwill trail. Erin suggested a kid's hike on the Butterick Trail on a Friday during the Farmer's Market.
11. Scheduling of three trail clean-up days with boy scouts- Chris Tetrault emailed us about asking the boy scouts to help with trail clean-up on the weekend of April 28. We may ask Chris if we can postpone this to May 5 or 6.
12. New business – Marion learned last night from Mike Pineo that the Conservation Commission is doing some land management/cutting on North Row Rd. near Hardscrabble Rd. There also might be some work/cutting/clearing downed trees on the Butterick parcel. Erin also asked about what to do about the ATVs on the Wekepeke Trails. Rob suggested that she call the Sterling Police or the Game Wardens in Westboro.
13. Next meeting date- Meeting for powerpoint on April 2.
14. Adjourned at 8:48s

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