

Butterick Municipal Building -- Room 201

In attendance: Peder Pedersen, Rob Protano, Marion Larson, Jeff Keay, Chuck Plaisted,
Jim Wilkinson

Guest: Peg Spaulding

1. P. Pedersen moved to accept the agenda for January 9, 2019. Motion was 2nd and carried unanimously.
2. Note taker: J. Keay volunteered.
3. P. Pedersen moved to accept the minutes of the November 14, 2018 meeting. Motion was 2nd and carried unanimously.
4. J. Wilkinson provided a revised OSIC budget. P. Pedersen moved to approve the revised budget as submitted. The motion was 2nd and carried unanimously.
5. Finalizing goals for OSRP update.
 - M. Larson provided a draft document of Sections 6, 7, 8, and 9 of the updated OSRP: Committee discussion focused on Sections 8 and 9.
 - Section 8 – Goals and Objectives
 - M. Larson noted that the rationale for the goals and objectives was listed.
 - Key concerns gathered through our surveys and community meeting included:
 - Providing accessibility to town owned land and recreation facilities (ADA regulations and adequate parking).
 - Transparency and communication between town boards and departments concerning open space and recreation opportunities and issues.
 - Reviewing town by-laws impacting open space and recreation decision making.
 - Section 9 – 7 Year Action Plan
 - Discussed the need to act on those goals and objectives listed in Section 8.
 - Noted that it is often the town that needs to act on these goals: not solely OSIC's responsibility.
 - Discussed the use of an "outline" rather than a "table" to list the Action Plan Schedule.
 - M. Larson will check with J. Barrett as to which format is best to use.
 - The committee members will let M. Larson know of any changes or additions to these goals, objectives, and actions.
 - M. Larson noted that there will be an All Board Meeting on Wednesday, January 23.
6. Map Updating for OSRP
 - M. Larson will check with the town planner about possible free mapping from MRPC.

7. Rejuvenation logging of the Butterick Parcel

P. Pedersen walked the Butterick Parcel with R. Perry, M. Pineo, and forester.

Explained plans to cut down the younger/smaller trees to promote a healthier forest.

P. Pedersen was impressed by the knowledge shown and the rationale given for cutting.

Felt it was something OSIC should support.

M. Larson suggested a walk and public hearing before cutting begins.

Volunteered to write an article explaining the proposal.

The cut would take place in 3 months to a year.

8. Joint OSIC/ConCom proposal

P. Pedersen has been in communication with M. Morrow concerning a joint grant proposal for trail improvement and clearing of the Mudgett Orchard.

P. Pedersen emailed a list of questions to consider before making the grant proposal.

9. Discussed forming a Hike Planning Group as an appendix to OSIC.

As of now, the group would include P. Pedersen, J. Keay, C. Plaisted, and B. Cline.

M. Larson suggested ideas for marketing the hikes including sending pictures of hike participants along with their comments to the Meetinghouse News.

10. Finding candidates for the open position on OSIC.

P. Pedersen has posted notices on the town website and The Landmark, as well as sending an email to participants on our OSIC hikes.

11. New Business – “Peg’s Nature Pond”

Talked with P. Spaulding concerning who has maintenance responsibility for “Peg’s Nature Pond”.

Committee members suggested different town officials for her to contact.

Discussed possibility of a trail to the pond from the Sterling Senior Center.

12. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 13, 2019

13. Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Jeff Keay