

DRAFT OSIC Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2019
Butterick Municipal Building, Room 201

In Attendance: Peder Pedersen, Jim Wilkinson, Deidre Shapiro, Chuck Plaisted, Marion Larson, Bob Protano, Geoff Caldwell (guest)

Committee introduced themselves Geoff who also gave his background. Recently moved to Sterling, active with the Appalachian Mountain Club, worked on the AT and Vermont's Long Trail. Interested in local trails.

1. Move to approve tonight's agenda by M. Larson, 2nd by B Protano. Passed unanimously.
2. Note Taker: M. Larson volunteered
3. Motion to approve August 14, 2019 meeting minutes by R. Protano, 2nd by M. Larson. Passed unanimously.
4. P. Pedersen would like to invite the new superintendent of Wachusett Reservoir to attend a meeting to learn more about our trail activities and desires. Perhaps next month? M. Larson suggests waiting as she believes there will be considerable time to spend on wrapping up the Open Space and Recreation Plan Update. He also reports a new Conservation Commission member, Brianna Smith has a geology background. He suggests we invite her to a future meeting.
5. Trail topics: *Hardscrabble Road* Existing but over grown trail connection suggestions from P. Pedersen that would involve conservation land and crossing some private land. He said he would like to connect with the landowner through Matt Marro, Con Comm Agent to see about re-establishing the trail. *Heywood Trail* - C. Plaisted and P. Pedersen cleared some of the paved portion. Protano has acrylic sheets to replace the broken ones at this trail. The *Pine Esker Trail* (based on group walk) is in good shape. *Butterick Nature Trail* has some overgrowth by kiosk and other trail entrance. *Stillwater Trail*--R. Protano reports the kiosk is up and ready for painting. Several committee members will try to get it painted in the next week. Protano thanks the Sterling Light Department which drilled the post holes.
6. OSRP Update: M. Larson was invited to the Planning Board meeting next Wednesday (9/25) to answer questions and get feedback on the plan. C. Plaisted said he would attend and anyone else who wishes to is invited. The Town Planner has submitted comments and edits. D. Shapiro reports the Recreation Department is on track to submit comments by the September 27 deadline. Next meeting will be devoted to any loose ends with the plan to submit sometime in October.
7. Sterling Fair: All felt that the effort was valuable, productive conversations with people, trail brochures well received. This is where Geoff Caldwell met P. Pedersen who invited him to tonight's meeting. We should be there next year. M. Larson suggested she would ask the Sterling Land Trust to consider splitting the cost of the booth if SLT wants to continue to share the space. Some SLT and personal Fair materials need to be collected by M. Larson. C. Plaisted said Patrice, the town facilities manager can get us into the 1835 Town Hall building to retrieve material.

8. Public Hikes: These are going well, C. Plaisted, J. Keay and P. Pedersen will schedule hikes for October and November.
9. Meeting adjourned 8:15