

**Via Zoom**

In attendance: Peder Pedersen, Jeff Keay, Chuck Plaisted, Jim Wilkinson

Meeting called to order: 7:29pm.

1. C. Plaisted started the meeting by asking if anyone was recording the meeting. All members replied in the negative.
2. P. Pedersen moved to accept the agenda for October 21, 2020. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Wilkinson and carried unanimously.
3. Note taker: J. Keay volunteered.
4. J. Wilkinson moved to accept the minutes of the September 16, 2020 meeting with amendments. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by P. Pedersen and carried unanimously.
5. Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Update Progress

C. Plaisted reported that he has sent two submissions of the plan to M. Cryan of The Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services for approval. She responded with two further requirements: researching the town deed for any restrictions on town properties, and completion of an ADA self-evaluation form evaluating town properties for ADA compliance. He will work on these requests. He also noted that he was receiving a lot of help from town officials.
6. Peg's Pond Trail Grants and Construction Progress

C. Plaisted reported that there has been no further construction progress on the Peg's Pond Trail since our last meeting. The DPW has been extremely busy working on other high priority projects.  
J. Keay reported that our grant proposal to the MassDOT Shared Streets and Spaces Program was not selected. He has sent a proposal outline to the Fields Pond Foundation, and is waiting for an answer from them. He will check on the possibility of applying for a MassTrails grant.
7. Appropriate Trail Etiquette Signs

J. Wilkinson reported that he received suggestions from J. Keay and P. Pedersen that he will incorporate in a final draft that he will email to the committee for approval.  
Discussed the idea that the sign's text should be universal, not just Covid-19 specific.
8. Wauschacum Trails Progress

P. Pedersen reported that there has been no further progress on plans to blaze the Wauschacum Trail. Noted that S. Valentine is working to provide signs for the Tara Lane and Swett Hill trailheads. Also reported that the Mudgett Orchard has been mowed. Will suggest mowing the entire orchard twice a year as well as regularly mowing a path through the orchard.

9. Sterling Master Plan Progress

C. Plaisted reported that there will be a public meeting with the Master Plan consultants on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Also reported that the Transportation and Circulation section of the plan includes the Sterling Trails and material from the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

He also noted that the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission is looking into connecting trails between towns. He will talk with John Hume, the Planning and Development Director, about their plans.

10. A Role for Erin Rehrig

C. Plaisted let us know that E. Rehrig would like to work with the OSIC Committee. The committee enthusiastically endorsed the idea of having her work on ways to update our Facebook page and otherwise use the internet and social media to promote Sterling Trails and our scheduled hikes.

11. Condition of Sterling Trails and the Need for Maintenance

Discussed work that needs to be done on the Stillwater Basin, Heywood Reservoir, Hog Hill, and Pine Hill Esker trails. C. Plaisted, P. Pedersen, and J. Keay scheduled a time to work on the Hog Hill Trail.

12. New Business

Discussed personnel matters.

13. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, November 18 at 7:00pm via Zoom.

14. Adjournment: C. Plaisted moved to adjourn. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Wilkinson and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Jeff Keay