

Via Zoom

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

Meeting called to order: 7:07pm.

1. C. Plaisted started the meeting by asking if anyone was recording the meeting. All members replied in the negative.
2. R. Protano moved to accept the agenda for December 9, 2020. Motion 2nd by P. Pedersen and carried unanimously.
3. Note taker: J. Keay volunteered.
4. R. Protano moved to accept the minutes of the November 18, 2020 meeting as amended. Motion 2nd by P. Pedersen and carried unanimously.
5. Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Update Progress

C. Plaisted reported he has printed 20 copies of the plan, and has distributed 18 to committee chairmen and town employees who have been involved in open space and recreational planning. Additionally, a thumb drive copy of the OSRP was distributed to all town employees and committee members involved. A printed copy was also sent to P. Campbell for the Conant Public Library. The total cost is approximately \$1,200.

R. Protano will inquire with recipients of the plan to get their feedback.

Discussed the possibility of providing a summary for each section of the plan and posting it on the town website. J. Wilkinson will begin working on this, and will ask the committee for comments and suggestions.
6. Peg's Pond Trail Grants and Construction Progress

C. Plaisted noted that he had been informed by D. Tatasciore that Sterling was in line for a MASSDOT grant, and she thought there might be a possibility for including the Peg's Pond Trail work within the grant. However, it was decided to use the grant monies for projects in the downtown area.

J. Keay reported that he needs to inform the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts as to how the grant money they awarded has been used up to this point, halfway through the grant period. Since no monies have been used, he will inform the foundation as such as well as letting them know of the work completed by the Sterling DPW, and the future need for the grant monies.
7. Appropriate Trail Etiquette Signs

C. Plaisted displayed a sign, designed by D. Pedersen, that he had printed and laminated. He reported that he had printed and laminated enough signs to be posted at all of the Sterling Trails.

Discussed the need to create and post signs at the border of DCR watershed lands, making it clear that no dogs are allowed beyond that point.

8. Trail Maintenance Updates

P. Pedersen reported that, as far as is known, only minor trail maintenance needs to be done. Decided that, at this time, no work needs to be done until next spring.

9. Sterling Master Plan Progress

C. Plaisted reported that the work continues, with an emphasis on basic research.

10. Mass Central Rail Trail – MASSDOT feasibility study

C. Plaisted provided online maps of the proposed route to extend the Rail Trail through Sterling, to connect with adjacent towns. Also, an alternate route that would connect various recreational resources in Sterling.

Discussed the challenges of completing these routes.

11. New Business

No new business was brought forth.

12. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom.

13. Adjournment: C. Plaisted moved to adjourn. Motion 2nd by J. Wilkinson and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Jeff Keay