

OSIC Meeting Minutes – April 21, 2021 7:00 PM

**Via Zoom**

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

Meeting called to order: 7:05pm.

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 April 21, 2021. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by P. Lekberg and carried unanimously.
3. Note taker: J. Keay volunteered.
4. P. Pedersen moved to accept the minutes of the March 17, 2021 meeting as amended. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by P. Lekberg and carried unanimously.
5. Trail Sign Post Progress
  - C. Plaisted reported that he and P. Lekberg had installed a signpost on the Heywood Reservoir trail at Hapsgood Road, and one on the Lynde Basin Trail by the first dam. Other signposts have been left by the dam on the Lynde Basin Trail until a Gator is available to haul them to their proper locations.
6. Peg's Pond Trail Progress
  - C. Plaisted reported that he is in discussions with Stillman Landscaping to complete the first section of the trail. Noted there is a possibility of being able to continue construction around the perimeter of the trail, staying within our current \$10,000 grant. Stillman is aware of our time limitations with the grant. J. Keay will check with the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts to see if our contractors need to use prevailing wage rates, or if there are any other restrictions with their grant.
7. Route change for the Stillwater Basin Trail
  - J. Keay reported he became aware that a section of the Stillwater Basin Trail passes through private property, and that increased use of the trail has impacted the privacy of the landowner. P. Pedersen and J. Keay discussed the issue with the landowner and agreed that the trail needs to be rerouted. We will work to have a temporary route mapped out by mid-May and a permanent reroute by October. J. Keay and P. Pedersen will work on proper signage to reroute hikers away from the landowner's property.
8. Logging at the Lynde Basin
  - C. Plaisted reported he has attempted to contact the Clinton DPW concerning their plans for logging in the Lynde Basin, and its impact on the Lynde Basin Trail, but has not received a reply. P. Pedersen will check with the Clinton Town Manager.
  - P. Lekberg reported that there is also logging at Hardscrabble Road. He and P. Pedersen will check on this.

9. Concerns about ATVs on the Allenwood Trail

- C. Plaisted reported that a hiker on the Allenwood Trail was concerned about the trail damage caused by ATVs. He contacted the Clinton DPW and Sterling Police about the issue and was told there was nothing they could do to deal with the problem. Sterling Police suggested that we install a motion-cam. Decided, at this point, that we will monitor the situation.

10. Resumption of Public Hiking program

Discussed starting the hiking program for this spring and summer. Agreed to meet on Thursday, April 29 at 10:00am at the Senior Center to put together a hiking schedule for the next three months. We will post the hikes in the local newspapers.

11. Sterling Land Trust to join OSIC at the Sterling Fair

- The Sterling Land Trust will be sharing a site with us at the Sterling Fair. We will be dividing the fee for the site with them.

12. Open Space and Recreation Chapter of the Master Plan

- Noted that the Master Plan committee member from the Montachusett Regional Planning Committee was pleased with the Open Space and Recreation Chapter submitted by C. Plaisted and P. Pedersen. They feel that the OSRP section is now complete.

13. Trail Maintenance Plan

- Discussed how to implement the maintenance plan. It was reported that a fallen tree needs to be removed from the Waushacum Trail, but otherwise the trails were in good shape. P. Pedersen brought up the need recruit volunteers for future trail maintenance, and also mentioned a possible candidate. Also discussed need for a volunteer to keep our Facebook page up to date.

14. OSRP in the Sterling Meeting House News

- Commended S. Aldrich for her fine article reviewing the contents of the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Noted the very positive feedback that the article received.

15. New Business

- C. Plaisted was in contact with S. Valentine who let him know of three projects being implemented by the Conservation Commission: new picnic tables at Sholan Park, improvements at the Tara Lane trailhead, and a fence to border the roadway to Mudgett Orchard.

16. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom.

17. Adjournment: P. Pedersen moved to adjourn. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Keay and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Jeff Keay