

OSIC Meeting Minutes – October 20, 2021 7:00 PM

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

Guests: Erin Rehrig, Richard Maki

Meeting called to order: 7:02pm.

1. C. Plaisted started the meeting by asking if anyone was recording the meeting. All members replied in the negative.
2. J. Wilkinson moved to accept the agenda for October 20, 2021. Motion 2nd by P. Pedersen and carried unanimously.
3. Note taker: J. Keay volunteered.
4. J. Wilkinson moved to accept the minutes of the September 22, 2021 meeting as written. Motion 2nd by P. Lekberg and carried unanimously.
5. Establishing Priorities and time frames for the OS&R chapter of the Sterling Master Plan
 - C. Plaisted led a discussion on the Goals and Actions stated in the Open Space and Recreation section of the Sterling Master Plan; focusing on the responsibilities of the Open Space Implementation Committee (OSIC) as regards each action, the priority to be given each action, the cost of implementing each action, and the timeline to execute and complete each action. General conclusions of the discussion included:
 - OSIC is already very active in promoting the stewardship of public lands through our Sterling Trails initiative. Felt it was a high priority and should continue as an ongoing activity.
 - Considering new approaches to zoning and protective bylaws is not directly part of our purview beyond supporting those that protect areas of environmental concern.
 - Working to make our local trails more accessible has been a top priority for OSIC including sponsoring and leading hikes, performing trail maintenance, providing downloadable trail brochures. We are also working to update our Facebook page to list updated trail conditions, schedule hikes, and encourage user input.
 - Discussed the importance of exploring ways to connect Sterling Trails with those of neighboring towns.
 - Acquisition of open space needs to be a shared action with the Conservation Commission, Land Trusts, and other stakeholders. OSIC can locate and list ecologically important properties for protection.
 - Regarding special considerations for seniors and those benefiting from the ADA, OSIC has been working on the ADA compliant Peg's Pond Trail, and promoting use of the Mass. Central Rail Trail.
6. Peg's Pond Trail Progress
 - C. Plaisted talked with J. Bump of Geneva Paving about trail construction on the brick section of the trail. The cost would be about \$10,000. Also talked with J. Nutting of the DPW concerning engineering and swale construction to deal with water mitigation issues. The DPW is willing to do the work for us when they have the time and resources.

7. Trail Maintenance and Sterling Trails Facebook Page

- Discussed ways to systematize trail maintenance.
 - Possible use of scouts to help with maintenance. Troop 1 had shown interest.
 - Online platform that hikers can use to post maintenance issues.
 - E. Rehrig suggested establishment of a Sterling Trails website for hikers to post maintenance issues, rather than using our Facebook page.
 - Including QR codes on our kiosks to direct hikers to online resources for reporting trail conditions.

8. Boy Scouts involvement with trail maintenance and Eagle Scout Projects

- Tabled: to be discussed on a later date.

9. New Business

- Discussion of parking concerns at the Cider Mill entrance to the Mass Central Rail Trail.
 - Determined that there is plenty of parking for trail users.
 - Need for the DPW to improve driveway that serves as an easement to trail parking.

10. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 7:00pm.

11. Adjournment: J. Wilkinson moved to adjourn. Motion 2nd by P. Pedersen and carried unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 8:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Jeff Keay