

**Sterling Open Space Implementation Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**June 25, 2014**  
**Butterick Building, Park Street, Sterling**

**Present:** Peder Pedersen, Jim Wilkinson, Marion Larson. In addition Brian Cline-Guest, Erin Rehrig, Interested citizen

Meeting began at 7:02 PM

**Agenda** for tonight's meeting was agreed upon. M. Larson agreed to take minutes.

**Acceptance of April May Meeting Minutes**--Motion made by M. Larson and 2nd by J. Wilkinson to accept the June 2014 meeting minutes.

**Budget Items Purchased**--Peder Pedersen brought in trail arrow markers and nail gun purchased with the last of the fiscal year funds. They are being stored in the OSIC file cabinet.

**Response to Sterling Trails Initiative Letter** -- At this time there were no responses to Pedersen's letter sent since the last meeting to Conservation Commission (Valentine and Roberti), Board of Selectmen or Town Administrator regarding the Committee's interest in designating Sterling Trails.

**Hardscrabble Road Clean Up** -- Bill Tuttle, DPW Supervisor, recommended a local Girl Scout group that could be interested in the clean-up. M. Larson reported she had not yet contacted the landowners adjacent to Hardscrabble Road. Will do this before the next meeting.

**Next Steps to Establishing Sterling Trails** -- If we start with Hardscrabble Road as a Sterling Trail, we need only to contact 3-4 landowners as well as the Sterling Land Trust and the Town of Sterling (Conservation Commission) and talk about marking the trail and putting together a trailhead sign. Peder Pedersen referenced that in addition to the large stone for the Sterling Land Trust Drenova property off N. Row Road, Sterling Land Trust has not problem with a Sterling Trails sign as well. SLT plans to make room for a few parking spaces.

**Trails Around Princeton Initiative** -- There was an article in The Landmark newspaper about the effort in Princeton to designate trails on different properties and ways to link them. P Pedersen thought there may be some lessons to learn from their experience. B. Cline mentioned that the Town of Princeton currently is not actively attending the Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition meetings. Marion Larson agreed to contact Deb Cary in Princeton who is probably active with this group.

**New Business** -- B Cline shared a map of the **MRPC Trail Inventory** to remind us to be thinking of these places during our trail initiative.

M. Larson shared info about the **Bartlett Pond Dam removal in Lancaster** (off Rte 117), which is part of the Wekepeke Brook watershed. The dam was removed in the fall of last year and the stream course through the old impoundment has developed and a cattail marsh is flourishing. She noted that the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife conducted a stream survey in mid-June and found native trout both

upstream and downstream of the dam--indicating that fish are now able to move further upstream on the Wekepeke.

Erin Rehrig mentioned that on the **Wekepeke Watershed lands** owned by Clinton, there had been an invasive plant removal and planting of native plant and shrubs on a portion of the property. She had been involved in helping remove multiflora rose, bittersweet and other exotic invasive plants. There hasn't been any monitoring to see how the plantings fared through the winter. M. Larson suggested she go and take a look. Erin will also check in with (I don't have the name) who was also involved in this project.

Brian Cline also noted there was a vote by the Conservation Commission to allow for **poison ivy spraying** on the Mudgett Property. He also talked about the Central MA Rail Trail; he and Mike Peckar (who is active in and a board member of Wachusett Greenways) discussed rail trail connections from Sterling to the Oakdale sections. He reminded the group that easements agreed to by landowners (Heinhold and Desmaris) on the bed that parallels Rte 12 to Chocksett Road have not yet been recorded. The Amorello parcel has been completed.

**Next Meeting Date:** July 16, a trail walk gathering, perhaps led by Jim French on a new trail off Lucas Road, adjacent to Stuart Pond. Peder Pedersen will contact Jim and get back to the group with more details.

Meeting Adjourned 9:05 PM.