

OSIC Meeting Minutes – July 20, 2022 7:00 PM

In attendance: Chuck Plaisted, Jeff Keay, Paul Lekberg, Rob Protano, Peder Pedersen

Guests: Rick Gardner, Gerry Pellegrini

Meeting called to order: 7:03pm.

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 July 20, 2022. Motion 2nd by P. Lekberg and carried unanimously.
3. Note taker: J. Keay volunteered.
4. R. Protano moved to accept the minutes of the June 15, 2022 meeting as written. Motion 2nd by P. Pedersen and carried unanimously.
5. Sterling Trails continuation into Princeton
 - Discussion with R. Gardner of Trails Around Princeton and G. Pellegrini about potential trail connections between Sterling, Princeton, and surrounding towns.
 - Still Water Basin Trail to Mass Central Rail Trail (Pleasant Street) to Oakdale.
 - Hog Hill to Trout Brook Reservation to Mason Road to Red Fox Farm
 - Could also make the connection from the MCRT by starting from the entrance on Manning Street and taking a side trail to Trout Brook.
 - Stuart Pond to Leominster State Forest to East Princeton
 - Thompson Gardens or Esty Road to Poutwater Pond.
 - G. Pellegrini noted that there is state funding available in the category “joining resources” that we might want to look into for trail funding. The state requires the requesting organization to supply a plan for the project.
6. Trail Maintenance Update
 - C. Plaisted reported that P. Fullhart, Facilities Manager at the town hall, asked permission to clear brush on the Butterick Nature Trail. Permission was given and her work appreciated.
 - P. Pedersen reported that he has been in contact with Clinton Town Administrator M. Ward about walking the Lynde Basin Trail to assess the effect of logging on the trail, and any repairs to the trail that need to be made. He has been unable to arrange a meeting at this time.
7. Protecting the hiking trail on the Hall Parcel
 - P. Pedersen volunteered to set out markers to define the trail on the Hall Parcel before lumbering operations within that area begin.

8. Peg's Pond Trail Progress

- C. Plaisted presented the committee with updated maps and diagrams detailing the Peg's Pond Trail project. He noted that B. Caldwell (Town Administrator) will use this material when soliciting bids for the project.
- C. Plaisted has had discussions with the DPW concerning the damage caused by erosion on the current trail. They are considering repairing the existing stone dust path and constructing a retention basin.

9. New Business

- C. Plaisted reported that V. Buckley, Sterling Senior Center Director, has asked us to consider leading hikes as part of senior center activities.
 - Discussed the possibility of mapping and leading easy/short hikes that would be appropriate for seniors.
 - C. Plaisted will let V. Buckley know we are considering how best to plan, announce, organize and run these hikes.
- Discussion of participating in the Sterling Fair
 - We will ask the Sterling Land Trust to share a tent at the fair with us.
 - C. Plaisted will put together a chart where we can create a schedule for manning the tent.

10. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 7:00pm.

- If needed, a tentative meeting date of August 17, 2022 at 7:00pm was agreed upon.

11. Adjournment: C. Plaisted moved to adjourn. Motion 2nd by R. Protano and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Jeff Keay