

OSIC Meeting Minutes -- December 7, 2022 7:00 PM

In attendance: Chuck Plaisted, Paul Lekberg, Rob Protano, Peder Pedersen, Jim Wilkinson

Meeting called to order: 7:08 PM

1. C. Plaisted began by asking if anyone was recording the meeting. All those present replied in the negative.
2. P. Pedersen moved to accept the agenda for December 7, 2022. Motion 2nd by J. Wilkinson and carried unanimously.
3. Note taker: J. Wilkinson volunteered.
4. R. Protano moved to accept the minutes of the September 21, 2022, meeting as written. Motion 2nd by P. Pedersen and carried unanimously.
5. Peg's Pond Trail Progress:
 - C. Plaisted reported having spoken with B. Caldwell, who had received and accepted a \$35K bid from a contractor who does work for the Sterling Municipal Light Department. Work will begin sometime in the spring. Since this bid is \$20K less than the appropriation made at the last Town Meeting, there will also be money for shade trees and a pergola with wisteria. Town Manager B. Caldwell will get a price for these new items.
 - C. Plaisted visited Quality Masonry in Leominster to find matching bricks for the Peg's Pond walkway but was told to come back in the spring. He reported that Sterling Greenery picked up *all* the bricks in preparation for a new layer of stone dust. R. Protano asked what had become of the bricks. C. Plaisted replied that they have been placed on a pallet with the bricks bearing the names of donors separated from the others.
 - R. Protano suggested that we store the bricks in the new garage at the Sterling Senior Center. The pile should measure about four feet square, and he thinks there's ample room so as to relieve Sterling Greenery of the "burden" of brick storage.
 - It was suggested that we need to have additional memorial bricks made up for Sterling Greenery and for Monty Tech. To C. Plaisted's knowledge, the \$35K allocated for the Peg's Pond project includes brick installation, but he was unsure about a bench. Monty Tech has signed up for work on a bench this spring.
 - Should OSIC have a memorial brick as well? C. Plaisted thought it should. A place in Clinton does bricks and one could be designed with OSIC Committee member names.

- C. Plaisted reported that the stone dust on the trail leading from the Sterling Senior Center to Peg's Pond had settled unevenly. The area still needs a culvert in order to keep rain runoff from damaging the trail. B. Caldwell has a willing bidder but no contract yet. R. Protano suggested that OSIC ask B. Caldwell to get it signed.

6. Trail maintenance report:

- There is a tree down on the boardwalk section of the Waushacum Overlook Trail. C. Plaisted said he might go up and take care of it.
 - P. Lekberg reported that he had taken a look at the Hardscrabble Trail and it seems OK.
 - R. Protano asked about the tracks left behind by skidders after the Clinton logging project along Heywood Road. According to DCR, after two years the forest comes back.
 - A forester is supposed to do work in the Butterick parcel, has submitted detailed plans, but has done no real work so far.
 - C. Plaisted will contact the Sterling scoutmaster to see if the boy scouts from Troop 1 can install water bars on the Stillwater Basin Trail.
 - P. Pedersen asks whether the town of Clinton is supposed to clean up after their logging operations near the trailhead on Heywood Road. Clinton should take away trash and debris. P. Pedersen will contact M. Ward concerning the matter.
 - Many trails need "carry in, carry out" signs. These include the Stillwater Basin, Pine Hill esker, Allenwood, Linde Basin, Hardscrabble Road (both sides), and Butterick Trails all need signs, plus the new trail on Swett's Hill Road. We need a dozen all told. P. Lekberg suggested that perhaps store-bought signs exist and volunteered to find out.
7. Hall Avenue Parcel. With regard to the Hall Parcel, S. Valentine will start work sometime in January. According to P. Pedersen the project has been on hold for a long time, but will soon be moving forward.

8. New Business

- C. Plaisted reported a conversation with the FinCom liaison, L. Sheppard. OSIC has \$6,450 on the books, which must be spent before 12.31.23 or be returned. How could the money be spent? R. Protano suggested kiosks, which could cost \$1,500 apiece if not built with free labor. One kiosk is needed for the Peg's Pond Trail, next to the Senior Center Garage, and another for the Hall Ave. Parcel. A bridge is also needed to avoid the new beaver pond near the Linde Basin Trail. R. Protano suggested a price of \$1,600 for the bridge.
- R. Protano suggests that OSIC request an increase in its annual town appropriation from \$1,500 to \$2,500. J. Wilkinson suggested that OSIC ask L. Sheppard about this and find out what the next step might be. Possible uses for the increase might include Sterling Fair expenses, trail brochures, better easels, tools, T-shirts.
- Has anyone met the new Town Manager? P. Pedersen said he hoped to meet with him to ask about better publicity for the town's Master Plan. "Making trails accessible" is one action item in the MP and that is OSIC's job, along with "resurrecting existing trails." The

Plan, which involved a lot of money and time (including OSIC's), deserves to be better known.

- C. Plaisted and P. Pedersen agreed to contact people who signed up as possible volunteers at the Sterling Fair in September, but who have not yet been approached
9. Next Meeting Date. It was agreed that the next OSIC meeting date should be 18 January 2023.
10. Adjournment. J. Wilkinson moved adjournment, seconded by P. Lekberg. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Jim Wilkinson