

Sterling Open Space Implementation Committee Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2014
Butterick Building, Park Street, Sterling

Present: Peder Pedersen, Jim Wilkinson, Marion Larson, Bob Protano, Erin Rehrig--Guest

Meeting began at 7:06 PM

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

Acceptance of August Meeting Minutes--Motion was made by M. Larson and 2nd by J. Wilkinson to accept the August 13, 2014 meeting minutes.

Interactions with Hardscrabble Road Landowners -- Jim Wilkinson will get in touch with Brian Bates and Craig Reynolds LLC, Marion Larson to follow up with Richard Maki. Jeff Ritter, Sterling Town Administrator sent in permissions for Sterling land. No response yet from Sterling Conservation Commission, Peder Pedersen to follow up with Sue Valentine on this.

Sterling Trails Permission to DCR -- Letter sent to DCR Watershed Supply Director John Scannell for Sterling Trails permission for the *Stillwater River Basin Trail* and for the *Stillwater Esker Trail* by P. Pedersen.

Wekepeke Sterling Trails Permission -- Discussion on who is the contact for Town of Clinton permission for Sterling Trails initiative. E. Rehrig looked up on phone--Mike Ward is the Town Administrator/ Manager who should be contacted. P. Pedersen will pursue. M. Larson will also connect with DFW staff person who oversees the Conservation Easements for DFW since there is one on the Wekepeke.

Clean Up on Hardscrabble Road -- Richard Maki is the last landowner to get permission to clean up along Hardscrabble Road and slightly on to his property. M. Larson to keep trying to contact him.

Logos/T-Shirt Designs -- P Pedersen shared more potential design logos with the group for shirts. Sterling Trailblazers sounded interesting. M. Larson pointed out there is a groups called Trailblazers that are like Boy Scouts--would there be some confusion or issue about that? She will look into this for the next meeting. Bob Protano will check into T-Shirt prices.

Recruiting of new OSIC Member -- Discussion with Erin Rehrig as to her interest in formally becoming a member of OSIC. She loves the outdoors, is a trail runner. Has a Ph.D in plant biology and teaches at Fitchburg State University. She is interested in being on the Committee. Motion to submit her name to the Selectmen for an appointment to OSIC was made by Jim Wilkinson and 2nd by Peder C Pedersen. Unanimous vote of approval.

Goals and Objectives Update -- Recreation and Accessibility -- M. Larson noted that with the recent retirement of Judy Janda at Recreation Department it will mean waiting for new Department head to be chosen to work on the accessibility objective of a workshop for Recreation Departments on making programs more accessible to people with disabilities.

Jim Wilkinson expressed interest in initiatives supporting Local Agriculture -- Discussion about inviting the organizer of the Farmer's Market to a meeting, perhaps OSIC could set up at the market when maps are available on trails, or recruit volunteers. M. Larson said she would be at the Farmer's Market and connect with that person.

NEW BUSINESS

Wachusett Greenways Hike -- P Pedersen will be leading a hike for Wachusett Greenways in the same area where OSIC hiked this summer starting from the ball field on Griffin Road.

Mass. Outdoor Expo -- A family event of outdoor skills at the Hamilton Rod and Gun Club on September 28 in Sturbridge announced by M. Larson.

Sterling Land Trust Hike/ Celebration -- On October 18, P. Pedersen is being asked to lead a hike starting at Crystal Brook Farm on Tuttle Road through the Wekepeke to showcase new Sterling Land Trust property at Allenwood and then through the Wekepeke area to the Sterling Land Trust Drenova property.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, October 22, 7PM at Butterick Building

Meeting Adjourned 8:50 PM.