

Orange Conservation Commission - Notice of Meeting

High Plains Community Center - Room 2 - March 1, 2023 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- I. Call to order
- II. Emergency Exits
- III. Public Dialogue (2-minute limit) Guest: Blaine Sorrick
- IV. Review and approve February minutes
- V. Financial Report

**VI. Old Business**

- A. Status of Ewen Preserve:
  - Illegal netting on town property by owners of 615 St. John's Drive.
  - Possible new blazed walkway.
  - Updated survey showing boundary line stakes.
- B. Wepawaug: status of historic informational plaque - style and cost.
- C. Status of Racebrook Tract:
  - New trailhead entry.
  - Grant request to Orange Foundation (Bob Archembault) for parking lot fence.
  - Adjustments needed to kiosk for postings on backside which now faces new entry path.
- D. Status of Connecticut Trails DEEP Grant application for Howard Brooks Walkway.
- E. Status of refurbishing entry signs to all trails.
  - Quotes requested from New Haven Sign.
  - Status of landscaping below those signs - edged and mulched, with decorative boulders.
- F. Lion's Club Mini-Grant application submitted 2/24/23.
- G. Increased vandalism at trails - possible surveillance cameras and/or motion-detector solar spotlights in parking lots.
- H. Possible development of trail at Wolf Park at the end of the soccer field where prior trail existed by leadership group.
- I. Purchase of OCC-identifying attire, such as vest and hat/visor for commission members.
- J. Status of Menunkatuck Audubon Society Purple Martins presentation expected in March.

ORANGE, CONN  
TOWN OF PLAINS OFFICE  
OFFICE OF TOURISM & OUTDOORS  
2023 FEB 27 AM 9:15  
Blaine Sorrick  
Chairman

- K. Revisions to verbiage on Homepage of OCC website.
- L. Status of SCRCOG maps for each trail and the Leadership map.

## **VII. New Business**

- A. Damage to the Turkey Hill Preserve kiosk was reported on February 21; discuss status of repair to posts, and possible replacement of plexiglass.
- B. Racebrook Tract kiosk – replacement of plexiglass on back side with hinge, for posting of notices.
- C. Orange Land Trust request for OCC collaboration with clearing and blazing of “abandoned” side trail at Paul Ode, along with local Boy Scouts.
- D. Review Town of Orange and Orange Land Trust purchase of 15.38 acres, 716 Wheelers Farms Road; adjacent to Housatonic Overlook
- E. Development of a Mission Statement; Discuss needed updates to OCC Handbook, review of By-Laws.

## **VIII. Review of Trails & Steward Reports**

- a. Wepawaug Conservation Area - Sharon Ewen / Scott Somerville
- b. Housatonic Overlook - Donna Wesolowski
- c. Paul Ode Nature – Donna Wesolowski
- d. Racebrook Tract - Cathy Anderson / Sharon Kahara
- e. Ewen Preserve – Sharon Ewen / Chantelle Bunnell
- f. Turkey Hill Preserve – Mike Ross / Scott Somerville
- g. Planned Events - Purple Martin Presentation at HPCC
- h. Publicity – Website, FaceBook, Email, Orange Life; Orange Live – Chantelle Bunnell

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## Chairman Report

1. Cathy and Sharon attended the Garden Club meeting on 2/13.
2. Sharon confirmed approval of OCC gmail account with Paul Mongillo, Town Director of Technology [orangeconscomm@gmail.com](mailto:orangeconscomm@gmail.com)
3. Cathy provided updated Member List to Ann Denny for Town website.
4. Shall we update the OCC letterhead to eliminate the phone & fax#s, and add the gmail account? (Where does OCC mail go if sent to Town Hall?)
5. Status of "No Bicycling" signs for installation at all trailheads and posting on FB and website explaining why no bikes allowed. We can use the "No Bicycling" sign we have at THP trailhead. "Prohibited Activities" sign at THP to be replaced by one that includes Bicycles and Horses (Cathy coordinating with Don Foyer).
6. Draft announcement about new trail entrance at Racebrook Tract. To be tabled until all construction completed, with fence and railing, and kiosk.
7. Status of Code amendment to "N" as to leashed dogs allowed on trails – still tabled.