

Orange Conservation Commission - Notice of Meeting
High Plains Community Center - Room 2 - Feb. 1, 2023 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

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

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ORANGE CO. IN
TOWN OF LANSING OFFICE
FEB 1 2023 12:04 PM

VI. Old Business

- A. Results of special workshops in January to review the SCRCOG maps for each trail and the Leadership map.
- B. Ewen Preserve Update:
 - Status of illegal netting on town property by owners of 615 St. John's Drive.
 - Status of relocation of wooden bridge on walkway.
 - Status of renewal of Purple Martin Membership (basic \$35).
 - Status of possible new blazed walkway.
- C. Wepawaug: status of historic informational plaque - style and cost.
- D.
 - 1. Status of Racebrook Tract project for drainage and trailhead entry.
 - 2. Status of Grant request to Orange Foundation (Bob Archembault) for parking lot fence.
 - 3. Adjustments needed to kiosk for postings on backside which now faces new entry path.
- E. Results of Connecticut Trails Grant Proposals DEEP webinar on January 11, 2023 giving overview. on the CT Recreational Trails Grant program and application.
<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Outdoor-Recreation/Trails/CRT--Funding>
- F. 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.

VII. New Business

- A. Discuss small project for mini-grant request from Orange Lion's Club.
- B. To address increased vandalism at trails, discuss possible surveillance cameras, motion-detector solar spotlights in parking lots.
- C. Possible development of trail at Wolf Park at the end of the soccer field where prior trail existed by leadership group.

D. Purchase of OCC-identifying attire, such as vest and hat/visor for commission members.

E. Publication or announcements for 3/28 Purple Martins presentation.

VIII. Review of Trails & Steward Reports

- a. Wepawaug Conservation Area - Sharon Ewen / Scott Somerville
- b. Housatonic Overlook - Cindy Ruggeri (Cedar Grove) / Donna Wesolowski (High Ridge)
- c. Paul Ode Nature – Donna Wesolowski
- d. Racebrook Tract - Cathy Anderson / Santo Galatioto
Status of several white numbered markers at RBT, along with ribbon-marked trees off-trail and bike ramp, and partially blocked trail from small fallen tree, as reported by Scott.
- e. Ewen Preserve – Sharon Ewen / Chantelle Bunnell
- f. Turkey Hill Preserve – Mike Ross / Scott Somerville
Status of downed hemlock on Blue trail, as reported by Scott.
- g. Planned Events - 3/8/23 Purple Martin Presentation at HPCC
- h. Publicity – Website, FaceBook, Orange Life; Orange Live – Chantelle Bunnell

Chairman Report

1. Status of “No Bicycling” signs for installation at all trailheads and posting on FB and website explaining why no bikes allowed
2. Status of Code amendment to “N” as to leashed dogs allowed on trails.
3. Status of annual report 7/1/21-6/30/22 which was due in September 2022.
4. Cut trees dumped at the field at Wepawaug behind the house at 864 Mapledale Road (next to Cedarcrest property). Discovered by Don Foyer, Orange Highway Department, who verbally instructed the owner to remove all of the debris by Feb. 1, followed up with an official Town letter to the homeowner. On 1/20/23, Don Foyer reported that all was cleaned up.
5. OCC website refers to “Howard Brooks Conservation Area” on Mapledale. Research shows “Howard Brooks Wepawaug Conservation Area”. Discuss what or if any correction to be made.
6. Draft announcement about new trail entrance at Racebrook Tract.
7. Revisions are needed to verbiage on Homepage of OCC website.