

Orange Conservation Commission - Notice of Meeting

High Plains Community Center - Room 2 – September 5, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- I. Call to order
- II. Emergency Exits
- III. Public Dialogue – none scheduled
- IV. Review and approve August Minutes
- V. Financial Report

2023 SEP -5 PM 2:29
ORANGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
HIGH PLAINS COMMUNITY CENTER
ROOM 2

VI. Old Business

- A. Status of preparations for Orange Country Fair 9/16-9/17.
- B. Discuss and finalize location for Fall workday scheduled for 10/7.
- C. Status of security camera sim card.
- D. Status of closing the Howard Brooks walkway at RaceBrook Tract.
- E. Status of possible 2024 federal grant for Howard Brooks walkway replacement.
- F. Status of construction of new disc golf nets at Paul Ode Trail.

VII. New Business

- A. Owl Prowl to be scheduled for Friday 10/20
- B. Discussion required regarding Housatonic Overlook report of motorized vehicles

VIII. Review of Trails & Steward Reports

- 1. Wepawaug Conservation Area - Sharon Ewen / Scott Somerville
 - Status of historic informational plaque
- 1. Housatonic Overlook - Donna Wesolowski
 - Discussion needed: On 8/8/23, email to Sharon E. from resident Louis Pieper reporting that *"the bikers are back this summer. I talked with an ex orange cop who said he knew kids and chased them off but now the grooves are two feet deep, new rocks and roots and they have created short cuts causing erosion. When I talk to my friends walking who have meet kids they were flipped off and flew by, some almost hit"*
 - Donna will assist with marking yellow trail in the Fall when weather permits.
 - Need design for a directional sign at the point of the Red Trail that leads to Cedar Road entrance.
- 2. Paul Nature – Donna Wesolowski
- 3. Racebrook Tract - Cathy Anderson / Sharon Kahara
 - on 8/19 Girl Scout Troup 60274 swept back the rocks and gravel on the steps, pulled weeds in the mulched areas on side of granite steps, and cleaned/weeded under entry signs and kiosk.
 - Status of sign directing bicycle entry from parking lot, now that railing has been installed. Cathy
 - Orange Foundation post-grant certificate was submitted by Sharon E.
 - Status of new entry sign.
 - Status of Racebrook Tract advertisement on Trailsfork.com for mountain biking. Cathy/WIP
- 4. Ewen Preserve – Sharon Ewen / Chantelle Bunnell
 - Status of new trail – on 8/9 three loops were walked and tracked by Mike Ross, along with Chantelle, Jim Ewen, Sharon E. Scott and Cathy. Mike has provided GPS of White, Red and Blue Trails

5. Turkey Hill Preserve – Mike Ross / Scott Somerville
 - Yellow Trail mapping – need follow up re GPS from Mike Ross submitted location to tech consultant at SCRCOG
 - Future development of unofficial trails to be blazed as an expansion of the existing trails; WIP
6. Fred Wolfe Park Trail – Status of letter to Board of Selectman clarification of designation of FWP. Sharon.
7. Publicity – Website, FaceBook, Email, Orange Life; Orange Live – Chantelle Bunnell
 - Need to modify list of Nature Trails listing on Town website - WIP
 - Revisions to verbiage on Homepage of OCC website - WIP

IX. Calendar of Events

1. Orange Country Fair 9/16-9/17; Double-booth reservation submitted and paid. All volunteer hours seem to be filled.
 2. Work Day scheduled for Fall – 10/7, Wepawaug? Or other?
 3. Owl Prowl 10/20/23
 4. Programs – ongoing: CAPS monitoring for beetles and moths place traps in/at Racebrook Tract, Fred Wolfe Park Trail and Housatonic Overlook
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