



## Orange Conservation Commission

March 2, 2022 7:00 p.m.  
High Plains Community Center

### Approved Minutes

#### Attendance

**Commissioners Present:** Chair Sharon Ewen, Cindy Ruggeri, Cathy Anderson, Donna Wesolowski, Robert McCorkle, Santo Galatioto, and Scott Somerville

**Staff Present:** Deborah Satonick, Recording Secretary

#### **I. Call to Order**

- Chair Ewen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### **II. Approval of Minutes**

- Approval of the minutes was tabled until next month.

#### **III. Financial Report**

- Chairman Ewen reported that there is \$2873.93 remaining in the current 2020-2021 budget. Signs will be purchased from the remaining funds. She also reported that the Orange Board of Finance has tentatively approved \$10k in next year's budget for the steps at Racebrook Tract.

#### **IV. Old Business**

##### **A. New Trail at Turkey Hill Preserve**

- Two new yellow arrow signs will be purchased for Turkey Hill Preserve stating on the signage "yellow trail." In addition, two ATV signs will be purchased, one for Fawn Drive and the other for Housatonic Overlook. The only signs in storage are "No bikes" and "Stay on Trail."

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TOWN OF ORANGE  
RECORDING OFFICE

## **B. Kiosk Updates**

- Ms. Ruggeri obtained the lamination material from Parks and Recreation office and will be fixing the kiosk at Housatonic Overlook. Other kiosk signs will also be addressed in the near future.

## **C. Review of Maintenance List**

- Chair Ewen reported that Mr. Small from Public Works will be clearing the clog at the bridge at Wepawaug Conservation area.

## **D. Eagle Scout Project**

- Ms. Ewen advised that Jack Belfonti will be contacting the Inland Wetland Officer for a proper sign off on his Eagle Scout project.

## **E. Spring Bird Walk**

- The Spring Bird Walk is scheduled for April 9th at Racebrook Tract from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Anthony Zemba will host this event and advertising will begin on Facebook, on the website, and in the paper.

## **F. Orange 200 Year Bicentennial Celebration**

- There was a brief discussion about the ongoing summer celebration and how the Orange Conservation Commission can contribute to this event. After some deliberation, it was suggested that Trail Day be held at Wepawaug Conservation area and historical information related to the Civil War be shared with participants.

## **V. New Business**

### **A. Bird Walk**

- As mentioned earlier in the meeting, the Bird Walk will be held at 8:00 a.m. at Racebrook Tract and Mr. Zemba will host the event. The entire community will be invited to attend. In addition, the Woodbridge Rotary is having their service event on April 23 and there will be a second Bird Walk at Turkey Hill Preserve. Chairman Ewen suggested that the parking lot be cleaned as a possible service project.

### **B. Programs for Children**

- Chairman Ewen received support from Mr. Lynch in regard to assisting with advertising and possible payment for any programs being offered by the Orange Conservation Commission. She took suggestions from the Commission members, which included a fun book read in the woods, a walk by the river, the painting of inspirational rocks, a snack in

the woods, a scavenger hunt, and collecting items in the woods to make a small project. All suggestions will be considered.

### **C. Purple Martin Program**

- Chairman Ewen advised that the birdhouses do need to be cleaned. The Commission is somewhat uncertain as to how many purple martins have used the birdhouses. A program might be considered for the future, using the speaker from the Audubon Society. It was also suggested that this topic could be discussed at the fair this fall.

### **VI. Standing Committees**

- Chairman Ewen felt that it was advisable to have two Commission members assigned to each of the individual Open Space areas, and added names accordingly.

### **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick,  
Recording Secretary

