



ORANGE, CONN  
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*Patricia W. Sullivan*  
TOWN CLERK

## **Orange Conservation Commission**

June 2, 2021 7:00 p.m.  
Zoom Meeting

### **Approved Minutes**

#### **Attendance**

**Commissioners Present:** Chairman Cindy Ruggeri, Donna Wesolowski, Robert McCorkle, Cathy Anderson, Scott Somersville, and Santo Galatioto

**Commissioners Absent:** Chairman Sharon V. Ewen and Mike Ross, Consultant

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

**Guests:** Alice Kasten and Kenichi Tatsano, Fieldstone Residents

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

- Chairman Ruggeri called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. via zoom. She indicated that the meeting in August might be in person at one of the High Plains classrooms.

#### **II. Review and Approval of Minutes –May 5, 2021**

- The Commission members reviewed the minutes and made edits as necessary.

***Mr. Galatioto made a motion to approve the amended May 5, 2021 Orange Conservation Commission minutes, seconded by Ms. Anderson. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.***

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

- Chairman Ruggeri provided the Financial Report, noting that the remaining balance is \$1028.53. The amount of \$125 will be expended for a booth at the Orange Country Fair. Additional expenses include reimbursement for supplies to Mr. Ewen. The end-of-year budget deadline for the submission of expenses is June 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### **VI. Old Business**

##### **A. Fieldstone Virtual Presentation – 5/26/21**

- Chairman Ruggeri reported that the presentation at Fieldstone was well attended with about 17 participants. They discussed the trails, the Purple Martin Houses, among other topics.

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

- Mr. Somersville agreed to blaze the trail, noting that this new trail must also loop around to connect back. Maps will need to be updated to reflect this new trail.

## **C. Bird Sanctuary Locations**

- Ms. Anderson will work with Ms. Ewen on the location for a possible bird sanctuary. She also will contact the Board of Selectmen for approval.

## **D. Kiosk Updates**

- New materials need to be printed and laminated for the kiosks. Ms. Ewen had agreed to handle this matter at their previous meeting.

## **E. Ewen Preserve New Walkway**

- Ms. Wesolowski mentioned that this is a potential Eagle Scout Project, as someone has expressed an interest in doing this work. She will check back with this individual and report back at the next Commission meeting.

## **F. Wepawaug Bridge Repair Status**

- Chairman Ruggeri believes that the fallen tree has been removed and the repairs completed by Mr. Ewen. She will check and report back at the next meeting.

## **VII. New Business**

### **A. CT Trail Day – 6/5/21**

- It was suggested that pictures be taken on CT Trail Day for the Orange Country Fair. Ms. Wesolowski also mentioned that last year residents were encouraged to submit their own pictures while walking the trails so that these pictures could be highlighted at the Fair. CT Trail Day will be at Ewen Preserve beginning at 10:00 a.m. Chairman Ruggeri intends to contact Mr. Small about any fallen trees prior to CT Trail Day. This event will be cancelled should there be heavy rains.

### **B. Orange Country Fair – 9/18/21-9/19/21**

- The OCC will have one booth with tables. There was a brief discussion about what to display at the Fair. Chairman Ruggeri advised that there will be a more detailed discussion at their August meeting.

### **C. Bluebird House Installation**

- Chairman Ruggeri noted that there are 12 birdhouses with poles and 2 additional bird houses donated by the Garden Club. She would like them installed within the next week. The time will need to be coordinated with Mr. Ewen, who will assist with their installation.

### **Housatonic Overlook Blazing Date**

- Chairman Ruggeri advised that both she and Cathy have been working on the property.

### **D. Racebrook Tract Blazing Date**

- The trails need metal markers as many of them have been removed. It was suggested placing the markers at a higher height by using a step stool to avoid having them removed again. Other Commission members offered to help with trail blazing.

### **E. Clean Large Open Space Signs**

- Chairman Ruggeri noted that mildew needs to be removed on the Open Space signs.
- The guests in attendance gave suggestions regarding the trails. Ms. Kasten suggested that the OCC Facebook pages have more pictures of the properties, along with some history of the area, geology information, and more. Mr. Tatsuno suggested a standardization in signage, new plexiglass on the kiosks, as well as information indicating “You are Here” on the maps. He pointed out that the maps on the website appear sideways, making it difficult to read. He noted that there are no visible markers at Paul Ode Trail and advised that nails should not be put into trees as the nails rust over time and this is detrimental to the health of the trees. He also suggested that the trails indicate their degree of difficulty, as many seniors would be unable to walk the trails at Paul Ode.
- Lastly, there was a lengthy discussion regarding the terms of service regarding the OCC Commission members. The Recording Secretary will contact Mr. O’Sullivan to obtain an updated list of the Commission members. The Town website and the OCC website should also be reviewed and updated as needed. Ms. Anderson volunteered to help with an updated Commissioners’ list.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick,  
Recording Secretary