



ORANGE TOWN
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2022 AUG -4 AM 9:57

Orange Conservation Commission

July 6, 2022 7:00 p.m. Room 2
High Plains Community Center

Approved

Attendance

Commissioners Present: Chair Sharon Ewen, Cathy Anderson, Donna Wesolowski, Scott Somerville, and Robert McCorkle

Commissioners Absent: Cindy Ruggeri and Santo Galatioto

Staff Present: Deborah Satonick, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

1. Approval of Orange Conservation Commission Minutes

May 4, 2022 Minutes

Mr. McCorkle made a motion to approve the May 4, 2022 Orange Conservation Commission minutes, seconded by Ms. Ewen. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

June 2, 2022 Minutes

Mr. Somerville made a motion to approve the June 2, 2022 Orange Conservation Commission minutes, seconded by Mr. McCorkle. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

2. Financial Report

- Chair Ewen advised that they have \$228 remaining in the budget and she purchased slats from Orange Fencing to use the remaining balance. She will ask Mr. Small to install them.

3. Old Business

A. Girl Scout Project

- Ms. Anderson reported that the Girl Scout Troop has completed their volunteer work at Racebrook and is expected to print pamphlets on proper safety use of the trails. These pamphlets will be distributed in the town and at the Orange Country Fair.

B. Kiosk Updates

- Ms. Anderson advised that Ms. Ruggeri has completed the kiosk updates as was requested. It was suggested that the Town Ordinance, as it pertains to that particular Open Space, be included in the kiosk. Mr. Somerville will put information on recruitment of OCC members in the kiosk. As Ms. Wesolowski expressed an interest in resigning, it is important that the First Selectman has interested pool of people to fill these future vacancies.

C. Purchase of Signs

- Ms. Anderson advised that all of the signs have been ordered. Mr. Somerville noted that the current signage does not indicate that biking is not allowed on the trails, with the exception of Racebrook Tract. Ms. Ewen will mention this to Mr. Lynch. A lengthy discussion ensued about ATV vehicles and how to deter their use. Cameras, additional signage, and citations were all mentioned in this discussion. Ms. Anderson will print the Town Ordinance on brightly colored paper to display in the kiosk.

D. Racebrook Steps

- Ms. Ewen explained that the access to the property will be relocated and moved to the right of the parking lot and proper drainage is required.

E. Eagle Scout Project

- Mr. Belafonti is no longer doing his original project.

F. Orange Country Fair

- Preparations for the fair were discussed. Like last year, Ms. Wesolowski will display photos submitted of people using the trails. There will be two booths so there is ample room for materials. The display rack has been purchased and will be used at the fair to hold information pamphlets and maps of the trails. The Audubon Society will also have informational posters and pamphlets at the Fair.

4. New Business

A. Programs-Purple Martins, Owl Prowl

- After some discussion, it was agreed to hold the program on Purple Martins on a Wednesday in March, 2023. The Owl Prowl is scheduled for November 4th and sign up registration is required, with a forty person limit. The information on this program will advise that this event is not recommended for children under the age of six. Chairman Ewen will confirm with Mr. Gallo the idea number of participants for the Owl Prowl.
- Cleanup day is planned for October first, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at Wepawaug. This event will be advertised on the Land Trust website as well as the OCC website and the Orange News.

B. Election of Officers

- In the absence of Ms. Ruggeri and Mr. Galatiato, the election of officers was tabled until next month.

C. Maintenance Log

- The Recording Secretary will update the Maintenance Log to reflect that Ms. Wesolowski planted four pussy willow plants at the entrance of Turkey Hill Preserve. It was suggested that a possible future Scout Project might be the construction of a bird house to fit on an empty pole in the Open Space area.

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5. Adjournment

Mr. McCorkle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21p.m., seconded by Mr. Somerville. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick,
Recording Secretary