



Orange Conservation Commission

August 2, 2023 7:00 p.m.

High Plains Community Center

(Unapproved)

Attendance

Commissioners Present: Chair Cathy Anderson, Sharon Kahara, Scott Somerville, Chantelle Bunnell, and Santo Galatioto

Commissioners Absent: Donna Wesolowski and Sharon Ewen

Staff Present: Deborah Satonick, Recording Secretary

The meeting came to order at 7:03 p.m. and Chairman Anderson reviewed the emergency exits. There was no public dialogue.

1. Review and Approval of July 5, 2023 OCC Minutes

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

*Mr. Galatioto made a motion to approve the amended July 5, 2023 OCC minutes, seconded by Ms. Bunnell. All were in favor and the motion **PASSED**.*

2. Financial Report

The Financial Report was tabled as the Commission is waiting for the 2023-2024 budget.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Fall Workday

Fall Workday is tentatively scheduled for October 7th, at Wepawaug. Other locations were discussed, and a final decision will be made at the September meeting.

B. Security Camera Sim Card

Detective Jay Menga advised that a different security camera is needed that does not require Wi-Fi. Ms. Kahara will do further research regarding this matter and report back to the Commission members.

ORANGE, CONN.
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED FOR RECORDS
AUG -8 AM 9:44
TOWN CLERK

C. Closing of Howard Brooks Walkway at Racebrook

This request has been sent to the First Selectman and the Commission is waiting on a response. The Parks and Recreation Department will do the closing of the walkway.

D. Status of Construction of New Disc Golf Nets at Paul Ode Trail

The Commission is waiting for a status report from the Parks and Recreation Department regarding the new golf nets.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion About Girl/Boy Scouts to Volunteer to Clean New Trail Entrance at Racebrook

The Commission members unanimously agreed that it was a good idea to solicit help from the Girl/Boy Scouts.

REVIEW OF TRAILS & STEWARD REPORTS

1. Wepawaug Conservation Area – Sharon Ewen/Scott Somerville

On 7/15 members of the Orange Girl Scouts and the Woodbridge Boy and Cub Scouts cleaned up both sides of the entrance driveway by removing invasive weeds, spreading wood chip mulch, and cleaning the Howard Brooks Memorial Rock. Mr. Somerville will spray the inground yellow jacket nest on the property as Parks and Recreation was unable to locate the nest.

2. Housatonic Overlook – Donna Wesolowski

Ms. Wesolowski will assist with marking the Yellow trail this fall, weather permitting. A directional sign is needed on the Red trail that leads to Cedar Road entrance.

3. Paul Ode Nature – Donna Wesolowski

There is no additional report at this time.

4. Racebrook Tract – Cathy Anderson/Sharon Kahara

There are no updates with the neighbors at St. John's Street.

Three Signs to "Stay on Main Trail" were installed at the town line markers. The sign for bike entry from the parking lot is on hold for further discussion.

Ms. Ewen applied for the Orange Foundation Grant for the new parking lot railings. A 50 percent deposit was submitted for the new Racebrook Tract Entry sign and the remaining balance will be paid upon installation. Lastly, Mr. Foyer has been notified about the three down trees on the Red trail.

*

5. Ewen Preserve – Sharon Ewen/Chantelle Bunnell

A group walk is scheduled for August 9th to determine and map the new walking trail. In addition, Eric Orzel from Hilltop Turf will provide a quote for the relocation of the walkway. Chairman Anderson will notify the town regarding some down trees.

6. Turkey Hill Preserve – Mike Ross/Scott Somerville

On July 3rd a fallen tree was reported to Mr. Foyer and the Highway Department has removed it. They also spread wood chips at the beginning of the Blue trail in the area of the wooden plank walkway in order to absorb and cover the seasonal rise of the water levels. The Yellow trail was a topic of discussion for the SCROGG.

CALENDER of EVENTS

Orange Country Fair

The annual fair will be held from 9/16-9/17. The OCC has paid for a double booth with four tables. Rob will be at the booth and provide mums. Ms. Wesolowski will continue to work on providing information on Beach Tree blight.

Programs

CAPS ongoing monitoring for beetles and moths have placed traps at Racebrook Tract, Fred Wolfe Park, and Housatonic Overlook.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The members discussed updates to the website to include the Orange Country Fair and the workday.

The Girl Scouts are eager for more volunteer hours an well as the Woodbridge Boy Scouts. The Girl Scouts will also be at their booth at the Orange Country Fair.

Mr. Galatioto made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m., seconded by Ms. Kahara. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Satonick
Recording Secretary