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*Patricia C. O'Brien*  
TOWN CLERK

## **Orange Conservation Commission**

August 4, 2021 7:00 p.m.  
High Plains Cafe

### **Approved Minutes**

#### **Attendance**

**Commissioners Present:** Vice Chair Sharon V. Ewen, Donna Wesolowski, Robert McCorkle, Cathy Anderson, and Scott Somersville

**Commissioners Absent:** Chairman Cindy Ruggeri, Santo Galatioto, and Consultant Mike Ross

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

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

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

#### **II. Review and Approval of Minutes –June 2, 2021**

- The Commission members reviewed the minutes and made one correction.

*Ms. Wesolowski made a motion to approve the revised June 2, 2021 Orange Conservation Commission minutes, seconded by Ms. Anderson. All were in favor and the motion **PASSED.***

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

- Chairman Ewen reported that the new 2021-2022 budget is \$3400 and, to date, there have been no expenditures.

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

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

- Vice Chairman Ewen reported that Mr. Ross will flag the new trail and then the trail will be marked with both paint and plastic markers. The trail will loop around to the main trail. Cathy suggested additional markers to help people who are unfamiliar with the trails. This was also a recommendation made by people who use the trails. Plastic markers will be used as they are less likely to be removed or stolen. The Lions Club, Rotary, Amity, the University of New Haven and others have offered to help out to blaze the trail.

## **B. Bird Sanctuary**

- Ms. Ewen advised that the bird sanctuary will not be actively pursued at this time. Rather, the bird houses will simply be installed. Ms. Wesolowski pointed out that a bird sanctuary has restricted uses and must be approved by the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Anderson will distribute copies to the Commission members of the information that she compiled regarding bird sanctuaries.

## **C. Kiosk Updates**

- Ms. Ewen advised that kiosk at Racebrook Tract has not been done yet.

## **D. Ewen Preserve New Walkway**

- The walkway at Ewen Preserve is complete and the area has been newly seeded. The boundary issue with the abutting neighbor continues, and a possible fence is being considered. It was also suggested that a simple stone wall be erected to mark the boundary. Codespodi, the land surveyor for the town, has yet to come to fully mark this boundary line.

## **E. Bird House Status**

- Mr. Ewen installed the two birdhouses from the Garden Club and a “thank you” note will be delivered. Two additional bird houses will replace the old ones at Racebrook.

## **F. Housatonic Overlook Blazing Complete**

- The work at Housatonic Overlook has been completed. Ms. Ewen suggested that the Recording Secretary maintain an ongoing log of work to be done as well as all finished projects. Going forward, this log will be included as an addendum to the minutes.

## **V. New Business**

### **A. Orange Country Fair**

- Mr. Harvey, from the Audubon Society, inquired if they could share a booth with the Orange Conservation Commission at the fair. The Commission members agreed, hoping that there will be additional material to share with the public. Ms. Wesolowski advised that residents could take pictures of themselves using the trails to display at the fair, as this was also done at the last fair. The Commission discussed the list of supplies needed for their booth at the fair, including maps and a possible sign up for the Owl Prowl, which will be held at Ewen Preserve on November fifth. Mr. Gallo will host the event.

### **B. Racebrook Tract Blazing Date**

- This project has not yet been completed.

### **C. Officer Election**

*Ms. Anderson made a motion to nominate Ms. Ewen as Chairman of the Orange Conservation Commission. Mr. McCorkle seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.*

*Ms. Ewen nominated Ms. Anderson as Vice Chairman of the Orange Conservation Commission. Mr. McCorkle seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.*

*Ms. Ewen nominated Mr. McCorkle as Secretary for the Orange Conservation Commission. Mr. Somerville seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.*

**D. Brooks Walkway - Racebrook**

- This walkway is in poor condition and will need to be replaced. The Land Trust and the Orange Foundation may be willing to help financially. It has been temporarily repaired.

**E. Review Maintenance Lists**

- The Commission members reviewed the maintenance list of remaining items that need to be addressed. They also spoke on finished work. These logs will be updated monthly and filed with the minutes on an ongoing basis.

**VI. Review of Standing Committees/Liaison Reports**

**A. Paul Ode Nature**

- It was agreed that while disc golf is a well enjoyed pastime, the trails on this property are poorly marked. Ms. Anderson would like to obtain the drone mapping from Mr. Ross for internal use by the Orange Police and Fire Department. It was mentioned that there are trash receptacles on the site that are overflowing. The area needs to be cleaned and removal of some of the trash bins might be considered.

**B. Wepawaug Conservation Area**

- Two birdhouses will be replaced at this location.

**C. Racebrook Tract**

- Ms. Anderson reported that the parking lot area needs cleaning and suggested that the Work Day be at this location. There is also a tree down on one of the trails. A number of signs have been installed, including the town line signs. Fencing around the some of the trees has also been removed.

*Mr. McCorkle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m., seconded by Mr. Somerville. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick,  
Recording Secretary