

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL



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2018 JAN -5 AM 9:08

Patrick B. O'Sullivan
TOWN CLERK

Orange Conservation Commission

High Plains Community Center

January 3, 2018

7:00 p.m.

(Unapproved Meeting Notes)

Attendance

Commissioners Present: Chairman Cindy Ruggeri, Donna Wesolowski, Kent Tullo, Robert McCorkle, and Consultant Michael Ross

Commissioners Absent: Vice Chairman Sharon V. Ewen, Jonathan Clark, and Amelia Williams

Guest: Bruce Lindsay

Staff Present: Deborah Satonick, Recording Secretary

I. Call to Order

- Chairman Ruggeri called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and pointed out the emergency exits. She introduced Mr. Lindsay to the Commission members.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes

December 6, 2017 Orange Conservation Commission Minutes

Mr. McCorkle made a motion to approve the December sixth, 2017 Orange Conservation Commission minutes, seconded by Ms. Wesolowski. All were in favor, and the motion PASSED.

III. Financial Report

- Chairman Ruggeri reported that the current budget balance is \$1,973.83, including the reimbursement of the end-of-year cookie platter for the Highway Department and Parks and Recreation Department. The \$490.00 encumbered funds is set aside to pay Orange Fence Company once the work has been completed.
- Chairman Ruggeri reported that the remaining funds in the 2017 budget could be used for programs and other events. She will be requesting \$3,400.00 for the 2018-2019 budget, which is the same amount as the last fiscal year. Mr. McCorkle mentioned a new position of

trailer monitor during the summer months, but Ms. Ruggeri did not feel that the Board of Selectmen would approve a new position at this time.

IV. Old Business

A. Indian River Fish Passage Restoration Grant Progress

- In the absence of Ms. Ewen, Ms. Ruggeri gave a brief update, reporting that the walkway is almost complete and the ramp has not yet been attached. When the weather gets warmer, she would like the Commission to walk the property to see the completed walkway.

B. State of CT Grant Progress

- Mr. Ewen will continue to get ongoing updates on the status of the grants from Mr. Williams, Town Treasurer.

C. Orange Schools Science Program

- Ms. Ruggeri has made several phone calls to the school, leaving a request for a call back. To date, she has yet to speak with anyone, but she will continue her attempt to reach someone.

V. New Business

A. Orange Fence Status

- Orange Fence Company has not yet installed the gate, but the posts and poles are installed on Tyler City Road.

B. Les Mehrhoff Grant

- Ms. Ruggeri advised that she would be applying for this grant in March, and she will begin soon to compile all of the information.

C. Spring Fundraiser Event

- Chairman Ruggeri suggested tabling this topic until Ms. Ewen is present.

D. Racebrook Status

- Chairman Ruggeri mentioned that residents continue to call with complaints about unleashed dogs and mountain bikes. The trails are closed for the winter until April 30, 2018, but these problems continue. Mr. McCorkle has posted the trail closings in the local newspaper and Chairman Ruggeri will contact the Dog Warden.

- Chairman Ruggeri will contact the Highway Department about correcting a steep drop at the entrance of the Racebrook Tract. Mr. Clark also mentioned at last month's meeting about installing a berm to prevent erosion along one of the trails. Ms. Ruggeri noted that one half of Racebrook property is in the town of Woodbridge, so they must attempt to cooperate with our neighboring town. Mr. McCorkle suggested signs to point out bike trails and recommended using some of the monies in the current budget for this purpose.

E. 2018 Budget

- As previously mentioned, there is 1,973.00 in the remaining budget.

F. Spring Workday

- Ms. Wesolowski suggested using the Scouts to put in the plantings at Ewen Preserve.

G. Spring Bird Walk

- The Garden Club has money that can be used for the Bird Walk, as this event costs approximately \$250.00. Mr. McCorkle can also apply for the Lions Club Grant. By reducing the cost to participants, more people might participate in the event. It was also suggested using the grant for Earth Day in April and to coordinate the program with the schools. The Orange Foundation is another source of revenue, perhaps for the Owl Prowl.

VI. Review of Standing Committees/Liaison Reports

A. Wepawaug Conservation Area – Sharon Ewen

- Ms. Ruggeri mentioned that a tree might be down on the property, and will wait for further information from Ms. Ewen.

B. Housatonic Overlook – Kent Tullo

- Mr. Tullo has not yet had an opportunity to walk the property. There was nothing to report at this time.

C. Paul Ode Nature – Cindy Ruggeri

- Chairman Ruggeri reported that she has been unable to walk the property at this time.

D. Racebrook Tract – Jon Clark

- Mr. Clark is not present to give a report at this time.

E. Ewen Preserve – Sharon Ewen

- Ms. Ewen is not present to give a report at this time.

F. Fred Wolfe Park – Donna Wesolowski

- Ms. Ruggeri will contact Mr. Pisano about sharing the cost of a kiosk at this location. Ms. Wesolowski also suggested a miled trail at this location.

G. Turkey Hill Preserve – Mike Ross

- The fence has been removed but there might possibly be some materials remaining at the site. The question arose if the property is being used for cross-country skiing or snowmobiles.

VII. Adjournment

- Mr. Ross will be making a presentation at the Board of Selectmen meeting scheduled for February fourteenth to overview the work the OCC does in the hope of encouraging more funding from the town.
- Mr. Lindsay shared some information about the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMA). He and his children are avid riders and mentioned that the association uses Maltby Lakes, Racebrook Tract, and well as the blue trails in Woodbridge. He is interested in using the trails and indicated that the association is willing to help with the upkeep of the trails.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick,
Recording Secretary