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*Patrick B. O'Sullivan*  
TOWN CLERK

## Orange Conservation Commission

February 3, 2021 7:00 p.m.  
Zoom Meeting

*(Unapproved Minutes)*

### Attendance

**Commissioners Present:** Chairman Cindy Ruggeri, Vice Chairman Sharon V. Ewen, Donna Wesolowski, Robert McCorkle, and Santo Galatioto

**Commissioners Absent:** Cathy Anderson and Mike Ross, Consultant

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

**Guest:** Scott Somerville

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

- Chairman Ruggeri called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. via zoom.

### **II. Review and Approval of Minutes – January 6, 2021**

*Mr. McCorkle made a motion to approve the January 6, 2021 Orange Conservation Commission minutes, seconded by Mr. Galatioto. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.*

### **III. Financial Report**

- Chairman Ruggeri reported that there were no expenditures this month and the remaining balance is \$1718.33.

### **IV. Old Business**

#### **A. Wepawaug Bridge Stair Railings**

- Ms. Ewen reported that Mr. Cifarelli has the estimate for this project but with the recent snowstorm they are waiting to proceed with the work. \$1800 is encumbered to install the stair railings, and the estimate is \$1300. Chairman Ruggeri would like to know from Mr. Cifarelli if the remaining monies can be used for another project.

## B. OCC Town Code Changes

- Chairman Ruggeri reported that Town Attorney Vincent Marino would review the Town Code and she would report back to the Commission.

## C. Racebrook Snow Fence

- Vice Chair Ewen advised that she intends to contact Mr. Don Foyer to install the snow fence. Mr. Galatioto advised that the area is about 20 feet and a single roll of plastic fencing may be sufficient to cover the area.

## D. Racebrook Country Club Proposal

- Chairman Ruggeri advised that there will be a Zoom Town Referendum on February sixteenth to vote on the purchase of this property. The Land Trust supports the purchase. Ms. Ewen felt that the Commission should write a letter supporting this purchase. The letter could be viewed on their website, their Facebook page, and Orange Live. Mr. Galatioto and Mr. McCorkle will compose the letter and no vote was required for this action.
- While there are some walking trails on this parcel of land, the trails are not open to the public.

## E. New Trail at Turkey Hill Preserve

- Mr. Ross intended to use his drone to map out this new trail. As he is not at the meeting, this matter will be tabled until the next Commission meeting.

## **V. New Business**

### A. Spring Bird Walk

- Chairman Ruggeri stated that she spoke with Mr. Zemba and the tentative date for this event is Saturday, May first, at the Turkey Hill Preserve.

## **VI. REVIEW OF STANDING COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS**

### A. Racebrook Tract

- Mr. Galatioto will prepare a letter to the Orange Board of Selectmen regarding a possible pilot project at Racebrook Tract. The Regional Water Company allows individuals and outside commercial companies entrance on their property to cut trees for firewood. The letter to the Board is to determine if they feel that the OCC should proceed with a similar plan for the town's open space. Every open space would need to be individually accessed by a forester. Mr. Galatioto would contact the forester from the Regional Water Company for assistance if the Board of Selectmen approved of the project. A Yale or University of New Haven graduate student could also assist with this pilot project in the future.

B. Ewen Preserve

- A tentative date of June fifth was chosen for CT Trails Day. It will be held at Ewen Preserve.
- Mr. McCorkle will make ten bird houses and with assistance, he will cement the poles in the ground. It was suggested that Lowes or Home Depot might donate the lumber.
- Ms. Ewen will order the Purple Martin signs.
- Ms. Anderson sent information on the Orienteering Course at the Ewen Preserve to be placed on the OCC Website by Jeff Cap. Once posted, the Commission can create a QR code to put up in the Kiosk.
- There is a berm in the water at Racebrook Tract. It was suggested that the Wetlands Commission should be made aware of this as they might want it removed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Deborah Satonick,  
Recording Secretary