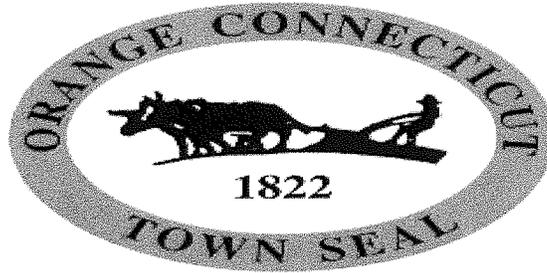


2019 FEB 11 AM 8:33

Petrol B. Dyer
TOWN CLERK



Orange Conservation Commission

High Plains Conference Room
February 6, 2019 7:00 p.m.

(Unapproved Meeting Minutes)

Attendance

Commissioners Present: Chairman Cindy Ruggeri, Vice Chairman Sharon V. Ewen, and Donna Wesolowski

Commissioners Absent: Kent Tullo, Robert McCorkle, Jonathan Clark, and Consultant Michael Ross

Staff Present: Deborah Satonick, Recording Secretary

Guests: Dennis Riordan, President of Menunkatuck Audubon Society; Carl Harvey, Community Education & Research Program Coordinator

I. Call to Order

- Chairman Ruggeri called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. She welcomed Mr. Riordan and Mr. Harvey. Mr. Riordan gave his contact information as follows: driordan@snet.net. Mr. Harvey's contact information is crharv3841@optimum.net (203) 389-6076.
- Mr. Riordan and Mr. Harvey gave a slide presentation on the history of the Menunkatuck Audubon Society, which was founded in Guilford in 1983. They are now expanding to include parts of Orange, Woodbridge, and North Branford, based on zip code.
- Mr. Riordan and Mr. Harvey highlighted some of their work and accomplishments within the area with Osprey platforms, nest boxes, and bird cameras. They also provided their Annual 2018 Report highlighting more of their volunteer work within the community. They rely on volunteerism, grants, and donations to continue their work. Students from Quinnipiac College have volunteered to remove invasive growth. Chairman Ruggeri added that they have had poor results with the Japanese Knotweed as their stem system is far-reaching.

- Chairman Ruggeri thanked Mr. Riordan and Mr. Harvey for their presentation. She added that she hopes to encourage the local schools in the area to make use our Open Space.

II. Approval of Minutes

- As there was not a quorum, the approval of the meeting minutes was tabled. Ms. Wesolowski mentioned that she had recently been sworn in for an additional term.

III. Financial Report

- Chairman Ruggeri reported that the proposed 2019–2020 budget is the same dollar amount as last year.

IV. Old Business

- Chairman Ruggeri reported that the permits have been taken out for the fence installation by Orange Fence Company at Racebrook Tract.

VI. New Business

A. By-Laws

- Chairman Ruggeri distributed a copy of the revised by-laws that were reviewed by Town Counsel Attorney Marino. The revision reads as follows: All Board members are expected to attend every regular meeting of the Orange Conservation Commission. Non-attendance at three consecutive meetings without a valid reason given to the Chairman shall be considered a resignation.
- Chairman Ruggeri will give a copy of the revised by-laws to Ms. Shaw and a copy will be filed with the Town Clerk, Mr. O’Sullivan.

B. Spring Maintenance Day

- Several possible dates were discussed in April for the Spring Maintenance Day, and May fourth was also being considered.

C. Spring Bird Walk

- Several possible dates were discussed for the Spring Bird Walk, and both April thirteenth and April twenty-seventh were being considered. A rain date was also suggested. Mr. Gallo might be asked to lead the Bird Walk.
- Connecticut Trail day will be held sometime in June and a walk through the Ewen Preserve was suggested.

D. Grants

- The Commission members discussed possible grants from the Orange Foundation, the Lions Club, and the Garden Club, and how they would use the grant money.

E. Update Kiosks

- It was noted that the kiosk at Housatonic Overlook fell down and needs to be repaired.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick
Recording Secretary