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*Patrick B. O'Sullivan*  
TOWN CLERK

## Orange Conservation Commission

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

*(Unapproved Meeting Minutes)*

### Attendance

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

**Commissioners Absent:** Kent Tullo, and Consultant Michael Ross

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

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

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

- As there was not a quorum, the approval of the meeting minutes was tabled.

### **III. Financial Report**

- Chairman Ruggeri reported that the proposed 2019–2020 budget is the same dollar amount as last year and that we will need to identify what the funds will be needed for.

### **IV. Old Business**

- Chairman Ruggeri reported that the permits have been taken out for the fence installation by Orange Fence Company at Racebrook Tract. Installation will begin when weather clears.
- ATV signs for THP – two signs have been given to Michael Ross for installation.
- Need sign at THP to indicate direction to parking lot when hiking from the East behind the pond.
- Chairman Ruggeri to contact Liz Mullins to request that a barrier be placed in the THP parking lot to prevent further encroachment; area is now a mud hole.

- There was considerable discussion regarding the THP parking lot for which Hubble had set aside \$50,000 at the time of purchase. Vice Chairman Ewen indicated that Travis Ewen had prepared plans but those plans were put aside by the Town Engineer due to road work. Donna Wesolowski suggested that those plans be brought to the next OCC meeting for review and then Chairman Cindy Ruggeri would then attach those plans to a letter to the First Selectman requesting that this long-overdue project move forward.
- Earth Day – April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Mr. McCorkle will put a posting on Facebook encouraging use of trails in open spaces.
- Spring Bird Walk – the Orange Garden Club has agreed to fund this event scheduled for April 27 at 7:30 am (rain date, April 28) at the Wepawaug Conservation Area. Mr. McCorkle will advertise in the local media and on Facebook. Participants will be allowed to preregister an email address to be notified of change in dates. Mrs. Wesolowski will make up a flyer concerning the May 4<sup>th</sup> Spring Maintenance Day to be handed out at the Bird Walk.
- Spring Maintenance Day – May 4<sup>th</sup> , 10am to Noon at Racebrook Tract. Mr. McCorkle to post on Facebook and ask participant to bring rakes, gloves, etc. The OCC will provide water. Chairman Cindy Ruggeri indicated that she had been in contact with Orange Park & Recreation (Chris Small) regarding large trash items at Racebrook Tract that needed to be picked up. Not yet done, she will contact Mr. Small again
- Connecticut Trails Day - June 1<sup>st</sup> (Rain Date: 6/2/19) at Ewen Preserve. The OCC will host a guided walk . Mr. McCorkle will advertise in the local media and on Facebook.

## **VI. New Business**

**A. Kiosks in Open Spaces-** The Commission members discussed setting a goal to update all kiosks in 2019.

### **B. Grants**

- Lions Grant – The OCC was awarded a \$250 grant to fund the OWL Prowl in the Fall
  - Orange Foundation – discussion was held to consider applying for a grant to fund the building of birdhouses (Purple Martin) from the Menunkatuck Audubon Society. Chairman Cindy Ruggeri to contact the Audubon Society for pictures and costs to accompany the Grant Application. Mr. McCorkle will check on application deadline.
  - Rotary – discussed the funding of signage at Tucker’s Ridge or combining with the Orange foundation for bird houses.
- The Commission members discussed need for a railing at the bridge in the Wepawaug Conservation as the steps are now quite high. Also discussed the need for a barrier at the Racebrook Tract parking area to require users to walk around the existing path over the tree routes to the entrance

### **E. Owl Prowl 2019**

- Tentatively schedule for November 1<sup>st</sup> (Rain Date: 11/2). Chairman Cindy Ruggeri will contact Frank Gallo to confirm the date..

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Robert McCorkle  
Commissioner