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Patrick B. O'Sullivan
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Orange Conservation Commission

High Plains Conference Room
April 3, 2019
7:00 p.m.

Approved Minutes

Attendance

Commissioners Present: Chairman Cindy Ruggeri, Donna Wesolowski, and Robert McCorkle

Commissioners Absent: Vice Chairman Sharon V. Ewen, Kent Tullo, Jonathan Clark, and Consultant Michael Ross

Staff Present: Deborah Satonick, Recording Secretary

Guest: Khaled Jarad, Eagle Scout

I. Call to Order

- Chairman Ruggeri called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and pointed out the emergency exits. She reported that she would call Ms. Shaw to advise her that Amelia Williams will not be sworn in for another term. She will also contact the Andersons to see if they have any interest in joining the Orange Conservation Commission.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes

March 6, 2019 Orange Conservation Commission Minutes

Mr. McCorkle made a motion to approve the March sixth, 2019 Orange Conservation Commission minutes, seconded by Ms. Wesolowski. All were in favor, and the motion PASSED.

Chairman Ruggeri suggested that the Khaled Jarad be heard first.

III. Eagle Scout Project

- Khaled Jarad presented his Eagle Scout Project to the members of the Orange Conservation Commission. He explained that he would like to lead Troop 925, along with other

volunteers, in the cleanup of invasive species at the Turkey Hill Preserve. He would also attempt to remove rusted auto parts from the area.

- Once he receives Mr. Zeoli's approval, he would like to begin the project next week, as the project must be completed no later than June tenth. The OCC members advised him of the area of the open space to focus on, along with some suggestions about trailblazing and the installation of signage. The Commission thanked Khaled and gave their full approval his this project.

IV. Financial Report

- Chairman Ruggeri reported that they have a current balance of \$2812.00. They will use some of this money to purchase needed signs for the Open Space.

V. Old Business

A. Orange Fence Install at Racebrook Tract

- Chairman Ruggeri reported that the fence would be installed next week. Mr. Small has cleared that area of trash and fallen tress. Ms. Ruggeri noted that more gravel is needed at the Racebrook driveway and she will mention this to Mr. Small.

B. Spring Bird Walk - 4/27 (4/28 rain date) at Wepawaug

- Chairman Ruggeri indicated that the walk would begin at 7:30 am. The Garden Club knows about the event and it has been advertised on Facebook.

C. Spring Maintenance Day - 5/4 10:00-12:00 at Racebrook

- Ms. Wesolowski was uncertain if she could attend this event due a conflict in her schedule.

D. CT. Trail Day - 6/1/ (6/2 rain date) at Ewen Preserve

- Travis Ewin will lead the guided walk on CT Trail Day. Ms. Wesolowski was uncertain if she could attend this event due a conflict in her schedule.

E. Lion's Club Grant for Owl Prowl

- Chairman Ruggeri reported that she gave Mr. Williams, Town Treasurer, the Lions Grant of \$250. She also noted that a thank you card has been sent out.

VI. New Business

A. Menukatuck Audubon - Bird House Status

- The Commission members discussed installing Purple Martin houses at Ewen Preserve. The Orange Foundation Grant of \$1500 can be used for this purpose. Blue Bird houses might be considered in the future. Chairman Ruggeri mentioned that the bird houses would need ongoing maintenance as they need to be cleaned annually. It was suggested that maintenance of the Purple Martin houses could be a good project for the Eagle Scouts.

B. Finalize Signs for THP/Racebrook

- There was a lengthy discussion over the number and types of signage needed at Turkey Hill Preserve, Racebrook Tract, and Housatonic Overlook. A total of fifteen signs will be ordered for the trails. Ms. Wesolowski suggested that Home Depot be contacted as they might donate the posts to the Town of Orange and the Eagle Scouts.

C. Clean Housatonic Overlook

- The date of April thirteenth will be set aside to clean the Housatonic Overlook.

D. Turkey Hill Preserve Parking Area

- Chairman Ruggeri reported that there are temporary blocks with a gate in the middle.

E. Wepawaug Bridge

- Ms. Ewen felt that a rail for the steps was needed as a safety measure.

F. Ewen Preserve

- Ms. Ewen felt that due to a steep slope, steps should be considered in this area.

G. Camp Cedarcrest Maintenance Day 4/6/19

- The camp will be holding its annual clean up day this weekend.

Mr. McCorkle moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m., seconded by Ms. Wesolowski.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick,
Recording Secretary