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Orange Conservation Commission

High Plains Conference Room
May 1, 2019
7:00 p.m.

(Unapproved Minutes)

Attendance

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

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

Staff Present: Deborah Satonick, Recording Secretary

I. Call to Order

- Chairman Ruggeri called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and reviewed the emergency exits. She pointed out that Amy Patterson invited the OCC Commission members to the Orange Land Trust meeting directly after their business meeting.
- Chairman Ruggeri reported that ten people attended the Bird Walk.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes

April 3, 2019 Orange Conservation Commission Minutes

- The Commission members reviewed the minutes and made one revision.

Mr. McCorkle made a motion to approve the amended April third, 2019 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 \$2768.00. East Coast Sign suggested that Chairman Ruggeri contact the Highway Department to see if she could get a discount on signage, as they buy in bulk. The signs, plus poles, will expend a portion of this current budget. There was a discussion on how best to use the remaining balance. Suggestions made were the installation of concrete steps at Wepawaug Conservation, on both sides of the bridge. A second consideration was replacing the concrete blocks at Turkey Hill Preserve and installing a gate. A third consideration was repairing the kiosks at the Open Space.

VI. Old Business

A. Orange Fence Install at Racebrook Tract

- Chairman Ruggeri reported that the fence has yet to be installed.

B. Spring Maintenance Day

- Chairman Ruggeri reported that this event is scheduled for May 4, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at Racebrook.

C. CT. Trail Day

- This event will be held at Ewen Preserve on June first with a rain date of June second. Travis Ewen will lead this event.

D. Eagle Scout Project

- This project at the Turkey Hill Preserve must be completed by June. The project will consist of the removal of evasive growth, putting up signs, and possibly ½ mile markers. Ms. Wesolowski will check the status of this project and report back. A previous high school teacher will assist Eagle Scout Khaled Jarad with this project.

V. New Business

A. Menukatuck Audubon – Bird House Status

- The Commission discussed the best location for blue bird houses. They also suggested that the Scouts might take on the maintenance of the Purple Martin houses at Ewen Preserve.

B. Turkey Hill Preserve Parking Area

- Chairman Ruggeri indicated that there is an area at THP that will need to be seeded.

C. Ewen Preserve - Stairs

- Two months ago, Sharon Ewen requested the consideration of stairs at Ewen Preserve, but Chairman Ruggeri is unclear exactly where they are needed.

V1. Review of Standing Committee/Liaison Reports

- Chairman Ruggeri discussed the installation of a bench in honor of Ed Tucker. The Orange Land Trust would pay for the bench and it would be placed on the top of Tucker Ridge. She suggested that a motion of approval be made.

Donna Wesolowski made a motion to approve the installation of a bench at Tucker Ridge in honor of Ed Tucker and to be paid for by the Orange Land Trust. Mr. McCorkle seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.

- Mr. Tullo inquired about the hiring of an intern to walk the trails over the summer and report back to the Commission. While there may be some funds within the budget, First Selectman Zeoli would need to approve of the hiring. She added that the Parks and Recreation Department is extremely busy this time of year with street sweeping and paving, and the mowing of lawns.
- Chairman Ruggeri mentioned that she notified Mary Shaw that Amy Williams would not be reappointed to the Commission. She will also inquire if Kathy Anderson is interested in filling this position.
- There was a brief discussion regarding the amount of space required by the Orange Conservation Commission at the Orange Country Fair. It was agreed that one space is sufficient. The payment for this space will be paid out of this year's budget.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick,
Recording Secretary