

2019 SEP -6 PM 3: 04



Patrick B. O'Sullivan
TOWN CLERK

Orange Conservation Commission

High Plains Conference Room
June 5, 2019
7:00 p.m.

Approved Minutes

Attendance

Commissioners Present: Vice Chairman Sharon V. Ewen, Donna Wesolowski, Kent Tullo, and Robert McCorkle

Commissioners Absent: Chairman Cindy Ruggeri, Jonathan Clark, and Consultant Michael Ross

Staff Present: Deborah Satonick, Recording Secretary

Guests: Keith and Cathy Anderson

I. Call to Order

- Vice Chairman Ewen called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Kathy Anderson expressed interest in joining the Orange Conservation Commission and had spoken with First Selectman Zeoli on this matter. The Commission members were delighted about her interest in helping.
- Mr. McCorkle wondered how often people actually visited their website. The Commission members suggested contacting Mr. Jeff Capp to make some suggestions for their website.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes - May 1, 2019

- The Commission members tabled the approval of the May OCC minutes until the next meeting.

III. Financial Report

- Vice Chairman Ewen reported that there is \$2k remaining in the current budget.

VI. Old Business

A. CT. Trails Day – 6/1 at Ewen Preserve

- Vice Chairman Ewen spoke about this event, stating that everyone enjoyed a nice walk. She also indicated that there have been requests by some residents to buy benches as a donation to the Open Space. The Orange Land Trust will be donating a bench at Tucker's Ridge Overlook. The style and type of bench was discussed, and Vice Chairman Ewen prefers a bench that blends naturally with the environment.

B. Eagle Scout Project – Turkey Hill Preserve

- Ms. Wesolowski showed pictures of the completed Eagle Scout project. Mile markers were installed and the designated area was cleared of invasive growth.

V. New Business

A. Menukatuck Audubon – Bird House Status

- A twenty-four colony bird house will be ordered and installed at Ewen Preserve. The Commission members suggested that the Scouts might take on the maintenance of the Purple Martin houses at Ewen Preserve. They will have to be cleaned annually and gloves and masks will be required for this maintenance work. Enlisting the help of an Environmental Group from Amity might also be considered.

B. Signs for THP/Racebrook

- Vice Chairman Ewen and the Commission members discussed the signage at both locations.

C. Turkey Hill Preserve – Area in Front of Blocks

- Vice Chairman Ewen discussed the area in front of the blocks, and noted that the color of the blocks has begun to fade. She would consider painting them and asked the opinion of the Commission members. It was agreed not to alter the color of the bricks at this time.

D. Wepawaug Bridge-Railings on Steps

- Vice Chairman Ewen will contact Roy Cuzzocreo to get a price to install rails for the steps at this location.

E. Ewen Preserve

- Vice Chairman Ewen mentioned that the fence line is rotting and there are down trees near Lambert Road. Mr. Denny wants \$1500 to push all of the trees back.

F. Goats for Invasives – Ewen Preserve

- Vice Chairman Ewen reported that a resident in the neighborhood advised that his goats eat knotweed and other invasives. It was suggested allowing the goats to naturally eat some of these invasives at Ewen Persevere to see if this helps.

V1. Review of Standing Committee/Liaison Reports

- Mr. McCorkle reported that the Orange Conservation Commission paid for one booth, costing \$125, for the Orange Country Fair, which will be held the third week in September.
- The Bird Walk was held at Wepawaug Conservation Area. It was agreed that this was not the best location for bird watching and another location will be chosen in the future. It was also noted that there are no longer any viable trails at Fred Wolfe Park. Disc Ball is still available at Paul Ode Trail behind High Plains Community Center.
- The next Orange Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled for July tenth, 2019.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick,
Recording Secretary