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*Patricia B. O'Sullivan*  
TOWN CLERK

## Orange Conservation Commission

High Plains Conference Room

June 6, 2018

7:00 p.m.

*(Unapproved Meeting Notes)*

### Attendance

**Commissioners Present:** Chairman Cindy Ruggeri, Donna Wesolowski, and Jonathan Clark

**Commissioners Absent:** Vice Chairman Sharon V. Ewen, Amelia Williams, Kent Tullo, Robert McCorkle, 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.

### **II. Review and Approval of Minutes**

- As there was not a quorum, the approval of the April minutes was tabled until next month.

### **III. Financial Report**

- Chairman Ruggeri reported that there is \$1500.99 still left in this year's budget, with \$250 encumbered for plantings from Broken Arrow. It was suggested that the \$250 be used to purchase two to three Mountain Laurels to plant at Racebrook Tract as a part of the Eagle Scout Project. It was also suggested planting low growing Day Lilies in front of the sign at Wepawaug Conservation Area.
- Chairman Ruggeri discussed several needed projects to use the remaining monies in this year's budget. While First Selectman Zeoli suggested that the Town insurance might cover the damage to the Ewen sign, it has yet to be replaced. Another project is to install a simple metal fence at Racebrook Tract to deter the deer from going into the road. Ms. Wesolowski suggested making laminated information cards on invasive species, to be given out at the Orange Country Fair. Canvas shopping bags was yet another suggestion. Lastly, Chairman Ruggeri suggested fixing the few remaining kiosks that needed new hinges.

- Ms. Wesolowski suggested a fun activity for the Orange Country Fair. If visitors show a picture of themselves using the open space correctly or cleaning up after their dog, a prize might be given out, such as a canvas bag.
- Chairman Ruggeri noted that Public Works and Mr. Small are doing an excellent job in helping to maintain the trails, particularly in light of the many fallen trees due to recent storms.
- Chairman Ruggeri will speak with Mr. Williams, Town Treasurer, to discuss the possibility of establishing a revolving account to encumber monies from previous budgets to be used as needed in subsequent years. She also mentioned that she emailed Mr. Zembo, requesting an invoice for his services in leading the trail walk at the Turkey Hill Preserve. They will either pay him or donate the money to an organization of his choosing.

#### **IV. Old Business**

##### **A. Indian River Fish Passage Restoration Grant Progress**

- Chairman Ruggeri indicated that Sharon has not yet ordered the plants. They will also need to set a date for the Board members to walk the property. Chairman Ruggeri mentioned that some Amity students who use the trails have volunteered their services.

##### **B. State of CT Grant Process**

- Chairman Ruggeri stated that the work has been completed in its entirety.

##### **C. Orange Schools Science Program**

- Chairman Ruggeri reported that Mike Ross has attempted to reach out to the Orange Board of Education but has had little success.

##### **D. Spring Bird Walk Date**

- This event is scheduled for June seventeenth, at 8:00 a.m. and will be advertised in the newspaper, and their website and Facebook page. The Garden Club and Land Trust will also be notified.

##### **E. My Town Trails- Updates THP Trail Length**

- Chairman Ruggeri noted that the length of the Turkey Hill Trail is incorrect and this needs to be corrected.

## **F. Key Bank Community Day**

- Chairman Ruggeri spoke with the manager of Key Bank about his original request to do volunteer clean up on their trails in order to obtain community service hours. She has not heard back from him on this matter.

## **G. CT Trail Day Update**

- Chairman Ruggeri reported that there were eight people in attendance, including the Board members.

## **V. New Business**

### **A. Turkey Hill Preserve Parking Lot**

- Chairman Ruggeri reported that there is \$50k earmarked for a new parking lot at Turkey Hill Preserve. She added that there is also a new Town Engineer. Currently, cars and buses will park anywhere there is a space. She would like to have a temporary blockade to stop buses from going too far in. Mr. Ewen's son is a landscape designer and has designed a parking lot for this property for free. Chairman Ruggeri would like to take advantage of this opportunity to pursue the development of this property.

### **B. Website and Facebook Updates/ Town Website**

- It was noted that some of the pictures on the website are outdated or incorrect. New photos should be taken and downloaded to their website and Facebook page.

### **C. New Members**

- Chairman Ruggeri pointed out that with a lack of a quorum, new members are needed. The First Selectman appoints all members, and Chairman Ruggeri would like to have two alternate members available, as do other Town Commissions. She intends to speak with the First Selectman on this topic.

### **D. Eagle Scout Projects**

- Ms. Wesolowski reported that the Eagle Scout project for Turkey Hill Preserve will no longer be taking place, as the student will be unable to obtain all of his badges in time. The project at Racebrook Tract, however, will continue. Ms. Wesolowski will provide additional information at the next meeting.

### **E. Date for Ewen Preserve Hike**

- Chairman Ruggeri indicated that a date for this hike has yet to be determined.

**F. Orange Country Fair**

- Chairman Ruggeri has paid for a double space at the fair at \$20 per table.

**G. Outreach Presentations for First Selectman, Rotary, Lions Club, and Orange Chamber of Commerce**

- Mr. Ross has been very busy, but he would like to do a presentation on our open space. Ms. Wesolowski felt that a topic of interest would be the use of the open space at the Turkey Hill Preserve.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Deborah Satonick, Recording Secretary