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*Patrick B. O'Sullivan*  
TOWN CLERK

## **Orange Conservation Commission**

High Plains Conference Room  
July 11, 2018  
7:00 p.m.

### **Approved Meeting Minutes**

#### **Attendance**

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

**Commissioners Absent:** Amelia Williams, Kent Tullo, Jonathan Clark, and Consultant Michael Ross

**Staff Present:** Deborah Satonick, Recording Secretary

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

- Chairman Ruggeri called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

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

- Ms. Wesolowski pointed out one correction on the April 4, 2018 minutes. Vice Chairman Ewen advised that as there was not a quorum for the June Orange Conservation meeting, the June minutes can simply be filed as Meeting Notes.

*Ms. Wesolowski moved to approve the revised April fourth, 2018 Orange Conservation Commission minutes, seconded by Chairman Ruggeri. All were in favor, with Ms. Ewen abstaining. The motion PASSED.*

#### **III. Financial Report**

- Chairman Ruggeri reported that there is a \$1559.93 remaining balance left in this year's budget. \$152.29 is a salary board balance. Ms. Ewen indicated that she spoke with the Finance Director and the First Selectman about using this money to install a metal fence at Racebrook Tract to help prevent deer from running into the road. The original fence

has been down for over three years. Mr. Cuzzocreo measured the area and determined a 200-foot fence is required. The Town of Orange will help to finance a portion of the fence.

- Chairman Ruggeri indicated that she has yet to receive the 2018-2019 budget, but she will contact Ms. Goldberg to request a copy. There was also a brief discussion about the needed corrections to their website, as it has not yet been corrected. The Recording Secretary advised that she would be contacting Mr. Capp and Mr. Small to make the needed corrections.

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

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

- Ms. Ewen reported that she has not yet purchased the plants from Broken Arrow.

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

- Chairman Ruggeri stated that the work has been completed and that Saturday, October twentieth or Sunday, October twenty-first, might be a good date for the Commission to walk the property.

##### **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 in getting a call back. Ms. Ewen will try to contact Dr. Russo to see if they had a science program this year.

##### **D. My Town Trails - Update on Trail Length**

- This website indicated that the Turkey Hill trail is six miles, when it is actually 1.6 miles. Mr. Chris Small will be contacted to make this correction.

#### **V. New Business**

##### **A. 2018/2019 Officer Vote**

*Ms. Wesolowski nominated Cindy Ruggeri as Chairman of the Orange Conservation Commission. Mr. McCorkle seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.*

*Ms. Ruggeri nominated Sharon Ewen as Vice Chairman of the Orange Conservation Commission. Mr. McCorkle seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.*

- Chairman Ruggeri noted that Amy Williams has resigned from the Orange Conservation Commission. Ms. Ruggeri would like a replacement as well as two alternate members

and will contact Mr. Zeoli to discuss this matter further. She noted that other Town Commissions have alternate members on their board. As there are two individuals interested in joining the Orange Conservation Commission, it was agreed that both individuals should be invited to the September OCC meeting.

**B. Turkey Hill Preserve Parking Lot**

- Chairman Ruggeri would like to have a special planning meeting to discuss their ideas for the location of a parking lot and possible barn at this location site. She would also like to get cost estimates before making any presentations before the Board of Selectmen or the Board of Finance.

**C. Racebrook Tract Steps - Eagle Scout Project**

- Ms. Wesolowski will check on the timeline to complete this work and report back to the Orange Conservation Commission. It was noted that as of last year, the Woodbridge Conservation Commission enforces a dog leash policy on this property. It was also noted that the Tree Committee should be contacted to advise them of holes from fallen trees.

**D. Date for Ewen Preserve Hike**

- Chairman Ruggeri indicated that a possible date for this hike is October twenty-first.

**E. Orange Country Fair**

- Chairman Ruggeri has paid for a double space at the fair at \$20 per table. They will have the same location as last year. Several ideas were discussed for the fair, including laminated handouts about evasive plants and prizes for people who prove to be good stewards of the Town's open spaces and hiking trails. Ms. Wesolowski will write a publicity article about the Orange Country Fair. The Owl Prowl, scheduled for Friday, November ninth, will also be advertised at the fair.

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

- Vice Chairman Ewen suggested that the presentation show all of the work that the Commission has done over the last few years. She will speak with Mr. Lynch and/or Ms. Plaskowitz about a presentation to the Board of Selectmen.

## VI. Review of Standing Committee/Liaison Reports

### A. Wepawaug Conservation Area - Sharon Ewen

- Vice Chairman Ewen reported that the Brownies used the Wepawaug Bridge for their graduation ceremony. She also discussed the erosion problem around the steps. Mr. Foyer might be able to lift up the steps and they could add a railing. Mr. McCorkle also suggested more gentle steps.
- Lastly, Ms. Ewen mentioned that Costco does logos and felt that this might be a good idea for the Orange Conservation Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Deborah Satonick  
Recording Secretary