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Patrick B. O'Sullivan
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Orange Conservation Commission

High Plains Conference Room
September 4, 2019
7:00 p.m.

(Unapproved Minutes)

Attendance

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

Staff Present: Deborah Satonick, Recording Secretary

I. Call to Order

- Chairman Ruggeri called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., noting the emergency exits for the new South Wing classroom. She proceeded to report that Mr. Clark has resigned from the Orange Conservation Commission and that he will need to send a letter of resignation to Mr. Zeoli. The Commission members agreed to pay Mr. Clark \$200 for his landscaping services at Wepawaug.
- Chairman Ruggeri mentioned that Mary Shaw is no longer working for the Town of Orange, as she has transitioned to a new position at the Orange Board of Education.
- Mr. Tullo indicated that he knows a woman who might be interested in joining the Orange Conservation Commission. He will forward the information to Chairman Ruggeri in order for her to contact this individual to better determine her interest in becoming a member of the Orange Conservation Commission.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes - May 1, 2019, June 5, 2019, & August 7, 2019

- The Commission members reviewed the minutes and made revisions as needed.

Mr. McCorkle made a motion to approve the amended May 1, 2019 Orange Conservation Commission minutes, seconded by Ms. Ruggeri. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

Mr. McCorkle made a motion to approve the amended June 5, 2019 Orange Conversation Commission minutes, seconded by Mr. Tullo. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

Ms. Ewen made a motion to approve the amended August 7, 2019 Orange Conservation Commission minutes, seconded by Mr. McCorkle. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

III. Financial Report

- Chairman Ruggeri reported that the current balance in the budget is \$3,304.96, as the only expenditure last month was for the secretary's salary.

VI. Old Business

A. Purple Martin House Site

- The projected site for the twenty-four-colony birdhouse is still undetermined, although Ewen Preserve is being seriously considered. Ms. Ewen anticipates that the birdhouse will be in place for the spring nesting next year.

B. Goats for Invasive Growth

- Ms. Ewen will attend the Board of Selectman meeting this month to discuss the use of goats to combat invasive growth in the Open Spaces. Liability insurance needs to be obtained and the trial use of goats should begin in the spring, when invasive growth is on the rise.

C. Kiosk Updates

- SCRCOG will be used to download the maps of the Open Space to display in the Kiosk. The Dog Regulations will also be displayed in the kiosk when applicable. It was agreed that the green plywood, along with staples, is the best material to be used inside the kiosk.
- Fred Wolfe Park will be removed as Open Space. Ms. Ewen suggested that Chairman Ruggeri obtain written documentation of the conversation that she had with the Parks and Recreation Department, noting that they do not actively manage the Open Space. The Highway Department as well does not have an active management plan in place for the Open Space. In light of this fact, the Orange Conservation Commission needs additional money to properly manage the properties.

D. OCC Website Updates

- Mrs. Anderson spoke with Jeff Capp who will make all changes to the OCC website in a timely fashion. Mrs. Anderson made some preliminary changes to the website and presented these revisions to the Orange Conservation Commission. She will restructure

the Home Page and update the current events page to include information about the Orange Country Fair. The Commission approved of all preliminary revisions.

E. Signs for Racebrook and Biking

- The signage will be posted at the Racebrook Tract as was agreed upon.

F. Owl Prowl Media

- This Owl Prowl is scheduled for November first, with a rain date of the second at Ewen Preserve.

G. Memorial Benches

- Ms. Ewen emailed the commissioners pictures of the stone Memorial benches that she would like to use for the Open Space. Ms. Wesolowski will talk to Mr. Zeoli about these benches once cost and installation is obtained.

H. Fall Hike

- Anthony Zemba is unable to lead the Fall Hike at Housatonic Overlook. Mr. Tullo will attempt to find someone else to lead the hike.

V. New Business

A. Orange Country Fair Volunteers & Tables

- Orange Conservation Commission will have four tables at the fair, with one table being used by the Menunkatuck Audubon Society. Chairman Ruggeri obtained a list of volunteers for the fair, with set up on Friday. There will be a photo contest, a sign up for the Owl Prowl, and invasive species information. Mr. Gallo's book will be available as well. Members were asked to wear their OCC shirts.

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick,
Recording Secretary