

Orange Conservation Commission - Notice of Meeting

High Plains Community Center - Room 2 - April 5, 2023 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- I. Call to order
- II. Emergency Exits
- III. Public Dialogue: 7:55pm: Philip Piscitelli, UNH graduate student Environmental Science, Environmental Ecology Concentration; request to conduct research at Racebrook Tract on the impact of the invasive vine Oriental bittersweet on tree growth
- IV. Review and approve March minutes
- V. Financial Report

VI. Old Business

- A. Ewen Preserve: status of improving and extending the existing unmapped "walkway" as an established, blazed trail.
- B. Wepawaug: status of historic informational plaque - style and cost.
- C. Racebrook Tract: Status of new trailhead entry.
Status of Orange Foundation grant request.
Grant request for parking lot fence.
Status of new entry sign.
- D. Status of Connecticut Trails DEEP Grant application for Howard Brooks Walkway.
- E. Status of landscaping below open space name signs - edged and mulched, with decorative boulders.
- F. Lion's Club Mini-Grant application for \$500 submitted 2/24/23
- G. Increased vandalism at trails - possible surveillance cameras and/or motion-detector solar spotlights in parking lots.
- H. Review revisions to verbiage on Homepage of OCC website, drafted by Donna
- I. Status of SCRCOG maps for each trail and the Leadership map
- J. Turkey Hill Preserve kiosk replacement of plexiglass. Is it needed?

Michael...

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2023 APR -3 PM 4:10

- K. Racebrook Tract kiosk – replacement of plexiglass on back side with hinge, for posting of notices.
- L. Orange Land Trust request for OCC collaboration with clearing and blazing of “abandoned” side trail at Paul Ode, along with local Boy Scouts.
- M. Development of a Mission Statement; Discuss needed updates to OCC Handbook, review of By-Laws.
- N. Status of request from Jim Engstrom to cut/take red pine from RBT:

VII. New Business

- A. Discuss request from Dana Crandall, Connecticut State (CAPS) Survey Coordinator at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) for the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) program, summarized below. (Dana is unable to attend this 4/5 meeting)

CAPS will be monitoring for softwood-feeding cerambycid beetles and moths that feed on and cause damage to major hosts including pine, fir, and spruce. She has requested permission to place traps in/at Racebrook Tract, Fred Wolfe Park Trail and Housatonic Overlook.

The survey process begins in June when pheromone baited insect traps are discreetly set up in the selected hosts such as fir, pine and spruce. The traps do not draw in any insects which are not already present in the surrounding environment. Traps are serviced every two weeks throughout the summer by CAES staff (myself or a technician) to collect trap contents and refresh pheromone lures. Our trap monitoring activities cause minimal to no interruption. We would hang laminated cards on each trap to provide our contact information to answer any additional questions for visitors. The trap collections are screened and sent to Carnegie Museum of Natural History and Oregon Department of Agriculture for expert sorting and identification. She will provide the Commission with the identification results at the end of trapping season.

- B. Chantelle has offered to create and maintain lists of suggested/upcoming projects for grants eligibility and projects completed with grant funds.
- C. Spring work day(s) to be discussed as to dates and locations.

VIII. Review of Trails & Steward Reports

- a. Wepawaug Conservation Area - Sharon Ewen / Scott Somerville
- b. Housatonic Overlook - Donna Wesolowski
- c. Paul Ode Nature – Donna Wesolowski
- d. Racebrook Tract - Cathy Anderson / Sharon Kahara

- e. Ewen Preserve – Sharon Ewen / Chantelle Bunnell
 - f. Turkey Hill Preserve – Mike Ross / Scott Somerville
 - g. Planned Events
 - h. Publicity – Website, FaceBook, Email, Orange Life; Orange Live – Chantelle Bunnell
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