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Patrick B. O'Sullivan
TOWN CLERK

Orange Conservation Commission

Zoom Meeting

July 1, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Approved Minutes

Attendance

Commissioners Present: Chairman Cindy Ruggeri, Vice Chairman Sharon V. Ewen, Donna Wesolowski, Robert McCorkle, Cathy Anderson, and Consultant Mike Ross

Staff Present: Deborah Satonick, Recording Secretary

I. Call to Order

- Chairman Ruggeri called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. via zoom.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes

- Chairman Ruggeri made a revision to the June 3, 2020 OCC minutes.

*Mr. McCorkle made a motion to approve the amended June 3, 2020 Orange Conservation Commission minutes, seconded by Ms. Wesolowski. All were in favor and the motion **PASSED.***

III. Financial Report

- Chairman Ruggeri reported that the remaining balance in the regular budget is \$1625.77 and there will be no expenses related to the Orange Country Fair, as this event has been cancelled. Chairman Ruggeri noted that all expense receipts had to be submitted before the end of the fiscal year, which was the last day of June. Ms. Ewen advised that Mr. Ewen complied and submitted all of the receipts for the materials he purchased to repair the kiosks and the walkways over the wet areas at THP and Housatonic Overlook.
- Chairman Ruggeri stated that the 2020-2021 budget was set at the same dollar amount as last year. In addition to these funds, additional monies in the amount of \$1100.43 are

being held by Mr. Williams, Town Treasurer, in the form of grants and donations. The Garden Club recently gave a \$50 donation to the OCC. Mr. Cifarelli is holding \$1800 to be paid to Orange Fence Company once their work is completed. There was a brief discussion about additional monies that might be in the budget and is being held by the Finance Director. It was unclear if this was correct and further investigation is required.

IV. Old Business

A. Wepawaug Bridge Railings

- As previously stated, the monies are being held by the Finance Director to cover this expenditure. Mr. Cifarelli will handle this project by speaking directly with Orange Fence.

B. OCC Town Code Changes

- In light of the Town shutdown due to COVID-19, any changes to the Town code have been on a temporary hold.

C. Racebrook Tract Steps

- The Town will remove any trees and supply the gravel and topsoil for this project. Mr. Smith, President of the Rotary Club, will contribute some funding for this project. There was a brief discussion as to the installation of stone steps or tie rod steps filled in with gravel. Drainage issues also need to be considered with the project. It was agreed to keep the trail entrance from the parking lot at the existing location and to move the kiosk closer to the Ox Shed, away from the wetlands.

V. New Business

A. Vote for Officers

MS. RUGGERI NOMINATED MS. EWEN AS VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE ORANGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, SECONDED BY MS. ANDERSON. ALL WERE IN FAVOR AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MS. EWEN NOMINATED MS. RUGGERI AS CHAIRMAN FOR THE ORANGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, SECONDED BY MS. ANDERSON. ALL WERE IN FAVOR AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Status of Wooden Walkways at THP & Housatonic Overlook

- It was noted that Mr. Ewen moved the wooden walkway at Ewen Preserve.

C. Kiosk at Housatonic Overlook – Cedar Grove Entrance

- Ms. Wesolowski reported that all the kiosks, except Cedar Grove, have been cleaned and supplied with updated materials. Mr. McCorkle mentioned that the kiosk at Paul Ode has outdated paperwork stuck on the backside that needs to be removed.

VI. Review of Standing Committee/Liaison Reports

- Chairman Ruggeri gave a report update on work that still needs to be completed, some of which includes the Scout project for Alex Oleschuck at Wepawaug, a new dog dispenser at THP, and additional mulch deliveries from the Town to specific locations at the Open Space properties. Ms. Ewen requested that the Commission consider using the goats to clear poison ivy and knotweed at other locations for another month. In addition, Chris will need to spray the poison ivy on the steps at Racebrook Tract. Ms. Ewen would also like to get the telephone number of the Orange garage for future reference.
- The Commission would like to have additional publicity on the Purple Martin birdhouse in the future. Ms. Ewen would also like to consider security cameras at some of their locations. Mr. Ross gave his expertise on the matter and forwarded additional websites to review in considering the purchase of cameras. A wireless solar camera could cost \$100.
- An additional trash receptacle is needed at Racebrook Tract. Ms. Wesolowski mentioned that wooden can containers to hold garbage liners are attractive and could be considered for a future Eagle Scout project. A metal picnic table from High Plains has been relocated to THP and the broken wooden picnic table has been removed.
- Chairman Ruggeri mentioned that she received an email from a mom in reference to her son, who was riding alone, and fell off of his bike at the Racebrook Tract. Ms. Ruggeri responded via email and has not heard back from the mother.
- The August Orange Conservation Commission meeting might be hosted at Ms. Anderson's house, weather permitting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick,
Recording Secretary