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Patrick B. O'Sullivan
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Orange Conservation Commission

Zoom Meeting

June 3, 2020

7:00 p.m.

(Unapproved Minutes)

Attendance

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

Commissioners Absent: Cathy Anderson and Consultant Mike Ross

Staff Present: Deborah Satonick, Recording Secretary

I. Call to Order

- Chairman Ruggeri called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes

- Chairman Ruggeri made a correction to the May 6, 2020 OCC minutes.

Chairman Ruggeri made a motion to approve the amended May 6, 2020 Orange Conservation Commission minutes, seconded by Mr. McCorkle. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

III. Financial Report

- Chairman Ruggeri reported that the remaining balance in the regular budget is \$1770.18 and that the fiscal year ends June 17th. There was a discussion to brainstorm how to make the best use of the remaining balance. Some suggestions included additional ATV signs, maintenance supplies for the Purple Martin birdhouse, green visors for Commission members, additional gravel, wooden planks for walkways, and new dog signs for Racebrook Tract. Unfortunately, many of the ATV signs have been stolen and others need to be cleaned to remove algae. The signs at Wright's Pond need to be fixed and she will speak with Mr. Lynch. It was also noted that there is additional grant money to buy supplies for the Purple Martin birdhouse.

- Ms. Ewen gave an update on the four goats, noting that the cost is \$140 per week that will come out of the remaining 2019-2020 budget. The goats are eating the invasive knotweed growth but not all of the stalks. The Town will have to weed wack and then spray weed killer once the goats have finished.

1V. Old Business

A. Scout Project for Wepawaug Tract

- Chairman Ruggeri reported that the Scout project will be on Land Trust property and Lawrence will handle it. This Scout project will not go through the Orange Conversation Commission.

B. Kiosk

- Ms. Wesolowski indicated that she has cleaned all of the kiosks and removed outdated materials, replacing them with current, pertinent information. She included information on the Purple Martin house and bikes wherever appropriate to the corresponding Open Space. The kiosks are not locked at this time.

C. Paul Ode

- Ms. Wesolowski reported that the trash has been removed and there are nice wooden walkways on the property.

D. Housatonic Overlook

- Ms. Anderson has the paint to blaze the trails. She gave a report on the needed repairs on the property, which include additional signage and small bridges to pass wetland areas. She also mentioned that a neighbor complained about teenagers and trash at the top of the trail. Ms. Ewen will mention this to the police department.

E. Racebrook Tract

- Ms. Ewen discussed the proposed steps with Don Foyer, who spoke with the First Selectman. The town will handle the trees, gravel and topsoil. Ms. Ewen will get a price from the contractor to address this water erosion from the parking lot.

D. Wepawaug Bridge

- Ms. Ewen will follow up once she gets a definite price from Orange Fence.

V. New Business

A. Turkey Hill Preserve

- Chairman Ruggeri reported that the brother of Mr. Ross will be constructing a wooden walkway on the property.

B. Turkey Hill Preserve

- It was noted that the dog bag dispenser is cracked at Turkey Hill Preserve and Chairman Ruggeri will ask the town to replace it. There is a broken picnic table that needs to be removed and Mr. Ewen will attempt to bring it to the dump. There is also a massive tree leaning over the trail that needs to be addressed. The trash has been removed during cleanup. Lastly, several properties, including THP, need wood chips and Chairman Ruggeri will speak with the Town regarding this matter.

C. Ewen Preserve

- There is a significant amount of poison ivy that needs to be removed and mowing is needed at the property.

D. Racebrook Tract

- There is fencing around some trees that should be taken down. Ms. Anderson indicated that she would take care of this.
- It was noted that the Orange Fireman's Carnival and the Orange Country Fair have been canceled due to COVID-19.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick,
Recording Secretary