



Orange Conservation Commission

October 5, 2022 7:00 p.m.
High Plains Community Center

Approved

Attendance

ORANGE, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECORDS & COMMUNICATIONS
2022 NOV -3 AM 11:04
M. Anderson

Commissioners Present: Cathy Anderson, Cindy Ruggeri, Santo Galatioto, and Donna Wesolowski
Commissioners Absent: Sharon Ewen and Scott Somerville
Staff Present: Deborah Satonick, Recording Secretary
Guests: Blaine Sorrick, University of New Haven

Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and reviewed the emergency exits.

1. Ecology Educational Research at Racebrook Tract - Presentation by Blaine Sorrick

Mr. Sorrick explained his research project in detail. He will be taking 10-12 soil samples in the 3-4 different soil types found at Racebrook Tract. The samples will be put in zip lock bags and brought to the laboratory in order for him to conduct his research studies. The Commission members invited him back before the Commission at a later date to discuss his findings.

2. Financial Report

Discussion was tabled until next month's meeting.

3. Review and Approval of September Minutes

Commission members reviewed the September OCC minutes and made one spelling correction.

*Mr. Galatioto moved to approve the amended September 7, 2022 Orange Conservation Commission minutes, seconded by Cathy Anderson. All were in favor and the motion **PASSED.***

4. Old Business

A. Purple Martin Update – Orange Land Trust and Conservation Commission

This event is scheduled for March 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. and will be at the HPCC Cafeteria. Mr. John Picard will host the event and advertising will go out prior to the event.

B. Orange Country Fair

This fair was well attended and many patrons stopped by to take trail maps and event information. The Girl Scouts were helpful in passing out their informational pamphlets as well.

C. Wepawaug Workday

The Wepawaug workday was cancelled on 10/1 due to the rain. The workday was rescheduled for 10/22 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The event will be advertised through multiple sources and cross posted with the Orange Land Trust. Mr. Galatioto would like the sticks removed from the area for future seeding. Mr. Galatioto will need a minimum of two bags of seed for the designated area. The Parks and Recreation Department might consider helping with the seeding and aeration of the area. Mulch will be put down around the picnic tables only.

D. Owl Prowl

EventBrite online registration has fifteen registrants as of 10/2. The event is scheduled for 11/4/22 at 7:30 p.m. and is being advertised. Ms. Wesolowski will provide the firepit and get the necessary permits.

E. Racebrook Tract Project

This matter was tabled until next month.

F. Ewen Preserve

Ms. Anderson gave a brief update regarding the homeowner at St. John's cul-de-sac that affixed a hammock to trees on town property. The hammock has been removed. She also would like to coordinate the replacement of slats for the fence.

7. New Business

A. Racebrook Tract

Ms. Anderson reported that one of the off-trail unauthorized wood slat bridges has many broken slats and is in disrepair. Considering that it poses a safety issue, it will be removed immediately. There was a down tree has been removed.

B. Paul Ode Nature

Ms. Wesolowski reported that the kiosk is filled to capacity and there is no room for any notices. There are directions for disc golf in the kiosk and it will be necessary to prioritize what information goes into the kiosk in the future. All of the kiosks should be checked periodically for duplications and removal of dated materials.

C. Turkey Hill Preserve

Mr. Foyer will be asked to install the signs for the yellow trail.

8. Chairperson Comments

Chairman Anderson would like the Vandalism Town Code put inside the kiosk but must first concur with Chief Gagne. Per the Town ordinance, all vandalism must be reported to the police.

After some group discussion, it was agreed to use their own town email for questions, comments or concerns from residents. Ms. Ruggeri will research and get back to the members as to what their town email is so it can be given out to residents should an inquiry be made. It was agreed that Town Hall should not be giving out home phone numbers in the future.

Mr. Galatioto spoke about guests speaking at their meetings, and going forward, "Public Dialogue" will be added to the Agenda to allow any residents a two minute opportunity to speak before the Commission. Mr. Galatioto would also like the First Selectman to review potential candidates who are interested in joining the Commission to fill the vacancies. Ms. Anderson would also like to compile a list of volunteer stewards for the open space.

Ms. Anderson will compile a "Maintenance Work List" of potential work and future goals for each respective Open Space and she discussed some of the repair issues with the Commission.

It was noted that Cedarcrest is not their property nor their responsibility and no action will be taken at this time.

Lastly, Ms. Anderson would like to review the SCRCOG maps for corrections and updates prior to ordering more.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Galatioto made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m., seconded by Ms. Donna Wesolowski. All were in favor and the motion PASSED unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Satonick, Recording Secretary