

TRUMBULL NATURE COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 10, 2013

Trumbull Nature & Arts Center

7:00pm

Present: Chairman, Pam Georgas; Kevin Malone; Frank Graszynski

The meeting was called to order at 7:08pm.

Past Minutes: Mr. Malone moved to approve the minutes of March 12, 2013, seconded by Mr. Graszynski. Approved unanimously.

Backyard Habitat Greenway Program

Mr. Graszynski gave the commission an overview of the program he developed several years ago through the Land Trust organization to preserve open space. He noted this program included seminars, hikes, educational workshops. Incentives were developed for participation in the program. He discussed the green map developed to document participating properties which noted habitat pathways. Different icons were used for different types of participation. Participants were pledging to reduce their carbon footprint.

Discussion of the possibility of a GIS overlay or a google map program was held. Mrs. Georgas noted the DEP is offering funding for people who want to use their land for habitat restoration. This program is motivation to think green. Modification of the program could be made to suit our particular needs. Mrs. Georgas also read some newspaper articles that were written many years ago regarding balancing and development.

Further discussion was held regarding organic vegetable gardens which could be included in the program. It was suggested that a harvest fair or vegetable exchange could be added as a fun activity. Also discussed was a tomato testing conducted by a local farmer. Native plantings and invasives could also be addressed. Mrs. Georgas noted she will update the information presented by Mr. Graszynski and send it out to the commission for review.

Endangered Species Campaign

Mrs. Georgas noted Ross has been doing a great job of organizing this campaign. Sun Industries is still interested in helping with funding and a work day. This may be set up for May.

Summer Programs

Three camps for three different age groups have been organized:

1. Summer Splash – July 1-3 for 6-9 year olds
2. Endangered Species – ages 7-10 year olds
3. Global Art – called Creative Journey for 10-14 year olds scheduled for August.

Lighthouse Workshops

Grant money is available to cover these programs. Mr. Malone will make contact with the appropriate individuals to coordinate the programs.

In-house Tank Animals

Discussion of in-house tank animals was held after the death of the lizard within the last few days. It was agreed to send the remaining animals to the Beardsley Zoo.

Building and Relocation Update

The commission is ready to present their plans.

New Business

Mary Ellen Lemay and Mrs. Georgas are attending the Earth Day Fair in Newtown. She noted the Nature Center might want to have a table.

Mrs. Georgas noted she would apply for the Neighborhood Assistance Grant to cover the cost of the educational materials, certificates and other incentives. It was agreed to request \$1,000 for marketing materials.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk