

**Trumbull Nature Commission**  
**Tuesday, November 11, 2014**  
**Trumbull Nature & Arts Center**  
**7:00 pm**

**Present:** Chairman, Pam Georgas; Commissioners Frank Grazynski and Kevin Malone

Also Present: Jeff Kunkel

**Absent:** Commissioners Ruth Mohr and Bonnie Lindsay

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by the Chairman. Mrs. Georgas introduced Mr. Jeff Kunkel as someone interested in becoming a commission member and welcomed him to the meeting.

**Past Minutes:** Motion made by Mr. Grazynski to approve the minutes of October 14, 2014. Seconded by Mr. Malone. One correction was made by Mr. Malone on Page 1, under Programs. First sentence should read "Mrs. Georgas noted the teen group participated...". Mr. Malone motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. Grazynski and approved unanimously.

**Nature Commission/501c3 Agreement**

A draft Memorandum of Understanding was reviewed at length. Reporting to the Nature Commission was discussed. It was felt the Commission needs to receive information as a benchmark on the progress of the 501c3. By reporting to the Commission, appropriate information regarding impact days, students served, classes, field trips, fund raising efforts, etc. would be presented. This information would consist of the same information given to the town for the annual report. The Commission needs to validate the 501c3 use of the building and this information would fulfill this requirement of the MOU. This reporting is currently done on a monthly basis by Mr. Malone as he also is a member of the 501c3. However, this MOU doesn't change anything but formalizes the arrangement for the future when a Nature Commission member is not president of the 501c3. Quarterly reports were suggested; Nature Commission meetings may be reduced as a result. This draft MOU will be given to the town attorneys to formalize its contents.

**Building and Grounds Improvements**

Mr. Malone reported an Eagle Scout has installed fencing by the brook as part of his project. Another Eagle Scout project may be the improvement to the Butterfly garden with mulch, clearing, identifying plants and the possibility of taking down the deer fence. He noted as a nature center, we should not have fencing. With the fence down, there may be a problem with the deer in the garden as it is their habitat but we can monitor and plant deer-resistant plantings in the future.

Mr. Malone reported Impact Trumbull group cleared by the pond and took down the deer fencing on the front vegetable garden.

Mr. Malone stated the town came and looked at the water leak in the basement but the pipe is still dripping. Mrs. Georgas will speak with Allan White regarding this. A master plan is being drafted for building and ground improvements and will be presented to the Commission when completed.

#### **New Commissioners**

Mrs. Georgas noted Mr. Massaro, Town Council, is contacting two individuals who may be interested in a position on the Commission. It is also on the agenda for December to reduce the number of commissioners to five.

#### **New Business**

Mr. Malone noted that the town's One Book One Town committee has requested the Nature Center participate as the book chosen describes a local family who lives naturally. The Center has been asked to conduct a maple sugaring program which will be done by Ranger Mark on March 7 and a "Grow Your Own Pizza Garden" program on March 21. This will include planting of herbs in cups to be taken home.

The Agri-Science School will be hosting an Expo and the Nature Center will participate. It was also noted that this is a great source of volunteers.

The mission of the Nature Center was discussed. Mrs. Georgas reviewed the history of the center including the potential relocation to one of the parks. This potential relocation was the reason for the creation of the 501c3 for the center. She noted that at this point in time, the town has decided not to relocate the center. The current building is in need of some repairs and improvements.

Mr. Malone noted some changes have been made with regard to the programs offered. The after school enrollment minimums are not being met because of the changes in the school curriculum in some areas. Therefore, these programs are being cancelled but other programs will remain on the weekends, programs for scouts will be arranged when requested and field trips will be scheduled for week day mornings. Mr. Malone reviewed the minimum attendance required for the programs.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Grazynski, seconded by Mr. Malone, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall  
Clerk

These minutes are considered a draft until approved at the next meeting of the Nature Center Commission.