

Trumbull Nature Commission – February 17, 2016

Trumbull Nature Commission
Wednesday, February 17, 2016
7:00 pm
Nichols Room, Town Hall

Present: Chairman Nancy Gottschalk; Vice-Chairman Barbara Pezzullo; Commissioners Nancy Wentworth and Jeffrey Kunkel (entered at 7:15 pm).

Also Present: TNAC Director Kevin Malone (entered at 7:05 pm)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Gottschalk, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Past Minutes

Motion was made by Mrs. Wentworth, seconded by Mrs. Pezzullo, to approve the minutes of January 20, 2016 as written. Approved unanimously.

Kevin Malone entered the meeting at 7:05 pm.

Report from Board of Directors of TNAC

Mr. Malone distributed an updated report of Promotions, Marketing and Programs. Copy of the updated report is attached to the minutes. Programs were discussed briefly. Mr. Malone noted the group is moving forward with the meadow restoration. A landscaper is helping with the project. They are also working on ideas for a garden around the back of the building which could be maintained by the patrons.

Mr. Kunkel entered the meeting at 7:15 pm.

Old Business

1. Future Meeting Dates – Mrs. Gottschalk noted the town has provided additional clerical coverage for the Commission for the remainder of the fiscal year. After discussion, it was decided that the Commission would meet in March, April and June. The May, July and August meetings will be cancelled.
2. Policies – Mrs. Wentworth noted no additional information has been received from either Mrs. Arnow or Mr. Herbst. However, the policy previously discussed by the Commission with regard to outside agencies/individuals using the facility has still not been determined.

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3. Long Hill Garden Club – Mrs. Pezzullo discussed some suggestions made by the Garden Club for the Nature Center. The Club would like to walk the property on March 23, 2016 at 10:00 am. Mr. Malone or Mr. Kunkel will be available.
 - a. The Club would like to take care of the Butterfly Garden and be responsible for it in totality. The fence around the garden was discussed. This will be taken down and used to mark off a portion of the new meadow in the front of the building.
 - b. Oak tree planting is still on the Club's agenda. Mrs. Gottschalk noted she had included the potential planting in the email to Mr. Herbst as part of the conversation of the future of the center in its present location. It was noted the property has an outside water source for continued care.
 - c. Labeling along the sensory trail. Mr. Malone noted they have the numbers for the sensory trail but the project did not include the brochure to provide the detailed information. This is a good project to complete.
 - d. Butterfly Way Station – there is a list of plants needed to be certified as a way station. Mrs. Pezzullo noted some of these plants may be in the gardens of the Club members which would be of no cost to the Center.
 - e. Fright & Frog program was discussed. This is for elementary level students about frogs.

New Business

1. Budget Update -- Mrs. Gottschalk and Mr. Malone presented the budget to the Board of Finance on February 16. \$240.00 was added by the town to cover four additional meetings this fiscal year. Mrs. Gottschalk asked for more clerical coverage to cover seven to eight meetings next fiscal year. Various line items were discussed with regard to services covered by the town such as heat, electricity and phone. Mrs. Gottschalk stated the Board was interested in the kind of activities that were provided and they had several questions about field trips and pricing. Safety/security issues were presented to the Board. Mr. Kunkel will speak with Mr. Marsilio regarding these issues. Mr. Malone will provide the Board of Finance with the annual report.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Kunkel, seconded by Mrs. Pezzullo, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk

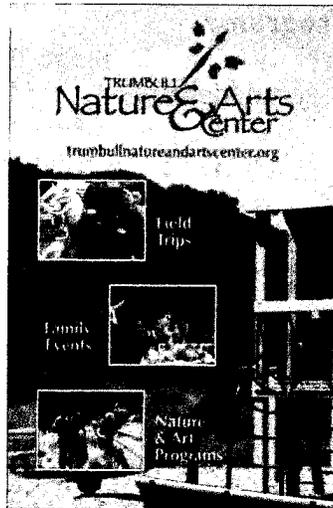
These minutes are considered a draft until approved at the next meeting of the Trumbull Nature Commission.

Patrons of TNAC January/February 2016
Promotion and Marketing, and Programs Report

Promotion and Marketing

I. Promotional Posters

- a. Two new 11 x 17 promotional posters were created, to be used at events.
- b. The posters were printed, laminated and mounted to foam core. Easels attached to the backs, in order to stand on tables.
- c. The content of the two posters are:
 - i. Generic TNAC informational poster
 - ii. Nature Facts. Poster contains facts that were procured and printed with permission from the CT Department of Energy and Environmental protection.



II. Trumbull High School student community energy program

- a. In 2015, Anuj Sisodiya participated in TNAC's Earth Day event, created a Fairfield County energy awareness program, and made a donation to TNAC.
- b. For the week of February 7 - 13 of this year, Anuj created an energy awareness campaign, with the possibility of TNAC receiving donations from those who purchase home energy assessments. Anuj is a finalist for a Barton L Weller Scholarship for this initiative.
 - i. This campaign was promoted on TNAC's Facebook page and website.

Programs

- I. **Student Leadership Valentine's Day Cookie Event**
 - a. This program was held on February 7th. There were 26 registrants and 19 attendees.
 - b. A large color photo of the event was featured on the front page of the 2/11 Trumbull Times
- II. **One Book One Town/TNAC March Programs**
 - a. The mini fantasy garden and geocaching programs are being promoted on the TNAC website, Library website, and library flyer. The events have also been submitted to CT Parents Magazine.
 - b. To date, there are 7 families, 23 participants registered for the garden program, and 3 families, 13 participants for the geocaching program.
- III. **Student Leadership (SLECA) Easter Egg Hunt**
 - a. SLECA has run this event for the past 2 years, and will do so again this year. Date to be either 3/13 or 3/26, TBD.
- IV. **Spring (April/May/June) Programs**
 - a. Spring programs are currently in development. The following programs are being considered/developed:
 - i. Long Hill Garden Club
 1. TNAC would welcome a class taught by member(s) of the Long Hill Garden Club
 2. Class topic TBD
 3. Considered dates: Sat. April 16/Sun. April 17, Sat. April 30, Sun. May 1
 - a. Program details and date need to be determined by mid-March
 - ii. Beekeeping
 - iii. Archery
 - iv. Fishing 101
 - v. Astronomy
 - vi. 3 Foragers
 1. A new program that would teach attendees about local, edible wild plants, weeds and fungi
 - vii. Family Hike
 - viii. Campfire and Fireflies
- V. **Earth Day**
 - a. This year, TNAC is attempting to collaborate with the Trumbull Community Women (TCW) to hold its Earth Day event on the same day as TCW's annual paper shredding event.
 - i. The shredding event has been held in years past on the TNAC property, however no TNAC events were held concurrently. A simultaneous event would serve to promote both TNAC and TCW.
 - ii. The Patrons are waiting to hear further feedback and date choice from TCW.