

Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting
January 26, 2012
7:00pm

Present: Mary Ellen Lemay, Chairman, Don Watson, Jim Sullivan, Joanne Parsons, Dale Parsons and Seth Lerman, Resource Conservationist from the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Also present Bill Wagner, Scott Kerr, Ken Skov, Richard Ennis.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm. Introduction of guests was made by the chairman. Four candidates for the open seats on the commission were in attendance and each gave a brief background of themselves and the reason they are interested in the position.

Past Minutes: Don Watson moved, Dale Parsons seconded, to approve the minutes as written. Unanimous.

Seth Lerman discussed with the Conservation Commission members how to navigate the natural resources inventory. This included the use of the GIS mapping. Mary Ellen Lemay noted the Commission is working on several projects which would impact this inventory such as the PRI and tree ordinance. She also noted Trumbull has the largest percentage of open space per capita. Mr. Lerman noted the commission needed to set goals for mapping and prioritize layers to be added. Some information can be imported from other organizations and individuals can begin mapping certain systems to be input on a regular basis. The GIS system can be changed all the time so that it is a living document but it would require a dedicated individual familiar with the system to do the project.

It was suggested that members of other commission be involved in the projects, study groups set up and expertise from the community be tapped. Inland Wetlands and Planning and Zoning Commissions should be involved.

This type of project can take you in whatever direction you want. By working with other communities, you can pick out a project and work collectively. This could include land use, open spaces, corridors, etc. Once you have the information, you need to decide what you want to do with it and then you can start making decisions on other projects. It was suggested to have an open process with the public. This helps public education and gets individuals interested, possibly even reach out to local schools for student driven projects.

Mary Ellen Lemay noted there are two commissioner seats open with eight candidates. Everyone comes to the table with different levels of expertise that would greatly benefit the commission. Everyone is welcome to participate in what interests them – GIS, study groups – to help make the projects come together. She noted this is an advisory commission, not regulatory. Several projects undertaken by the commission were discussed.

Old Business

1. Pequonnock River Watershed Initiative – no new discussions on this. The Greater Bridgeport Regional Council has taken over the plan. Don Watson gave a brief summary of the work being done.

2. Jim Sullivan presented a letter received from First Student regarding the parking lot degrading by the river. This is town property. More information will be gathered regarding this location. Don Watson recommended that the commission speak with John Marsilio about this area.
3. Landscape/Tree Ordinance – Mary Ellen Lemay, Joanne Parson and Bill Pisani are working on this ordinance. A draft will be brought to the commission next month for adoption and then taken to the Town Council for approval. John Marsilio and Dmitri Paris will review the ordinance prior to the next meeting.
4. IWWC Activities – It was noted that the application for Booth Hill Road has been resolved by the IWWC.
5. Single Stream Recycling – This started in July. Mary Ellen Lemay noted the position for a recycling coordinator is posted. It was suggested that we put an article in the Trumbull Times regarding this process. John Marsilio will be contacted regarding this. The commission needs to visit the recycling center to gather information to present to John Marsilio with their proposal.
6. GIS Update – on the town website for the public to use.

New Business

1. Green Trail Trumbull Center – Discussion was held of the trail from Bridgeport to Newtown. There has been discussion and meetings regarding the branch to be built through Trumbull Center.
2. Hillcrest Courtyard Habitat Project – A plan is being developed which can be implemented in April. It was noted that the Long Hill Garden Club is working on a similar project at Madison Middle School.
3. Natural Resource Inventory – it was noted that this project will be undertaken when there is a full commission.
4. Cross Country Sewer Line Remediation – This project was stopped until permits were obtained. It was noted that the Town needs to remediate wetlands at Twin Brooks Park as a result of this project. Discussion of remediation of the meadow and uplands in the park was held.
5. Scott Kerr attended a meeting regarding the Bridgeport Harbor coal fired power plant and presented a summary.

Next Meeting

It was agreed by the commission to change the February 23rd meeting to March 1st and the March 22nd meeting to March 29th due to conflicts.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk