

Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting
March 1, 2012
7:00pm.

Present: Mary Ellen Lemay, Chairman; Don Watson; Jim Sullivan; Joanne Parsons; Dale Parsons; Scot Kerr; Dell Orloske

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm. Scot Kerr noted the spelling of his name was incorrect in the minutes. Don Watson moved, Joanne Parson seconded, to approve the minutes as amended. Unanimous.

Mary Ellen LeMay presented to the committee a list of activities that members of the commission might be interested in attending. She noted that a recycling tour has been set up with the Hillcrest students for March 28. A tour of the magnet school construction site is pending. The two courses listed by the Federated Garden Clubs of CT are very good and if you attend both, you will have a certification as an environmental garden consultant. On Wednesday, April 25 at 3pm, the Ecology Club at Hillcrest will be taking a tour of the RESCO plant. All commission members are welcome. A separate tour will be set up for the commission on a Friday in May.

Old Business

1. Report on Pequonnock River Initiative/Old Mine/CTAC: No time has been set for completion of the Old Mine Project. It was also noted that 40-50 trees were taken down for the new trail through Twin Brooks. Deadlines for all projects have been sent to the town. CTACE – Conservation Technical Advisory Commission has taken over the project in Old Mine Park. They are trying to get a representative on this commission from the Town of Trumbull and this will most likely be the new town engineer.
2. Landscape/Tree Ordinance: The subcommittee met and the ordinance is still being revised. Don Watson sent out the report of the last subcommittee meeting to the members for review. This will allow an opportunity to review the report and send comments back to the chairman. There is a lot of hard work ahead of the commission with Inland Wetlands, Planning & Zoning and the Town Council. Some revisions were discussed with regard to caliper of trees. A certified arborist was discussed; this should be clarified within the ordinance and reviewed with Dmitri Paris. Members of the commission should be involved in the presentation of this ordinance at the various meetings. It was noted that the land use ordinance or any other ordinance is approved by the Town Council but enforcement is through Planning & Zoning or Inland Wetlands. The object of the ordinance is to allow members of these groups to sign the approval requests which should be facilitated by the new planning director. It was suggested that Dmitri Paris and the tree warden be invited to the next meeting to review the proposed ordinance. It was suggested by Dell that invasive exotic trees be addressed which could be placed in an addendum with recommended replacement trees eliminating any questions. Public education is a big part of this initiative which could be done by web site, press release and other methods. Most likely a public hearing will be held to review the ordinance.
3. IWWC Activities: Two applications were submitted.
4. Single Stream Recycling/Composting Project: Don Watson and Mary Ellen Lemay met with John Marsilio regarding a composting project for residents of the town. Composters have been researched; approximately \$7000 would be used for this project. The town attorney, Don, Mary

Ellen and a representative from DEP will review the project. Don Watson noted that part of this project could be a report from participants back to the commission; also noted that Hillcrest Middle School could be a part of this project especially in conjunction with the courtyard project. It was noted that Hillcrest would also like to collect plastics which would result in the manufacture of benches for the courtyard. Any money saved by the new recycling program could fund other initiatives.

5. GIS Update: no update. Open space map and impervious surfaces map were reviewed.

New Business

1. Natural Resource Inventory/Open Space GIS Map: Conservation reports regarding natural resource inventories were discussed. This will be a project of the planning director who should be involved in discussions about this inventory. Information could be put into the GIS system by volunteers so that we could look at some of the areas and see where the commission needs to focus their attention. Joanne Parson noted that the commission needs to have a vision as to how we would use the information. Having information on the GIS is more fluid and up-to-date. This inventory should include open space, water resources, green spaces, wild life habitat. Training is available to learn the GIS.
2. Courtyard Habitat, Middle Schools: Mary Ellen noted the Garden Cub would like to support the Hillcrest project in all areas including the donation of trees and plants. The Madison Middle School project is being done by the science class.
3. Status of Commissioner Seats and subcommittees: Mary Ellen noted both open seats on the commission have been filled which brings total members to seven. Other interested individuals have been assigned to other land use boards.
4. Status of open staff positions: All positions are currently being handled by the town; the commission is not involved in the procedure.
5. Sewer Cross Country Remediation Plans: Mary Ellen had requested information through Tighe & Bond regarding the remediation project in Twin Brooks Park. Definite plans were not presented. Various maps and reports were reviewed by the commission regarding this. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to John Marsilio requesting additional information regarding the remediation/restoration planting plan for the park.
6. Rails to Trails Trumbull Center: Trail plans are moving forward.
7. A Conservation Commission email was discussed. Jim Sullivan will look into this as a data collection point for the commission.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk