

Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting  
August 29, 2012  
7:00pm

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

**Absent:** Kate Bruzinski

The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm.

**Past Minutes:** Motion made by Mary Ellen Lemay; seconded by Joanne Parsons to approve the minutes of June 21, 2012. Clarification was made to Old Business #2 – the Zoning Director is Jamie Bratt and the Zoning Officer is Doug Wentz. Approved unanimously with clarification.

**Old Business:**

1. Pequonnock River Initiative – Don Watson presented a slide show of this project which provided details from conception to completion. It was noted that the project itself generated ideas for additional projects along the river which will help prevent erosion on the other side of the bridge at the dam. It was noted that the Parks Department has unanimously approved the 319 grant for this phase of the project. Dale Parsons noted that Don Watson has been very diligent in his pursuit of this project and has remained very positive which has allowed other projects to move forward and it has been everyone's good fortune to have this type of involvement from our commission.
2. IWWC Activities – It was noted that on September 4<sup>th</sup>, there is a presentation on streamside buffers by Julianna Bennett at their meeting.
3. Single Stream Recycling – The town sale of composters has ended. One half of the composters were sold; the remainder will be stored for a sale in the spring. It was felt that the money coming from the sales should be placed in a separate account for additional green projects in the town. Composting by the town was discussed. The commission will support Robin Bennett in these initiatives. Don Watson noted that single stream recycling is saving money for the towns using it; documentation needs to be done on the data to see where Trumbull stands. Scot Kerr noted that an email has been sent to all the people who responded to the survey with an update of the project.
4. Courtyard Habitat – No progress over the summer. Joanne Parsons will draw up a planting plan that can be given to the Garden Club for implementation in the event this project moves along after school begins.
5. Rails to Trails – now known as the Pequonnock River Trail. Approvals have been received but it is unknown when the project will start. Discussion of the trail and the proposed tree removal was held.

**New Business:**

1. Filled Staff Positions – no one additional except for the Zoning Enforcement Officer.
2. Community Outreach – Scot Kerr noted there is now a Conservation Commission email so that residents can communicate directly with the commission – [conservation@trumbull-ct.gov](mailto:conservation@trumbull-ct.gov). This website, along with our Facebook page, is promoted on the town website. It was also noted there is a town meeting at Madison Middle School on 9/24 from 7-9pm which will be discussed by Jamie Bratt later in the meeting.

Jamie Bratt, Director of Planning & Development, entered the meeting at 8:10pm. Discussion of the following was held.

1. Tree Ordinance – The ordinance was discussed by the commission noting that it has been reviewed several times and that a final document should be close. The Conservation Commission needs to endorse the finished document and then move it forward through the various committees for approval. Any final comments should be forwarded to Joanne Parsons so they can be approved by the commission at their next meeting. Jamie Bratt noted it is her office that would issue the program. Planning and Zoning should be the issuing authority with the Zoning Enforcement Officer as the enforcer of the program. He, most likely, would work in conjunction with the IWW officer. Jamie noted the tree warden is called for trees on public property; the Zoning Enforcement Officer would be for private property. Discussion of the ordinance and how it impacts requests was held. Jamie noted some of the ordinance is already in the regulations; those portions are just being reiterated in a separate document specifically addressing trees within the community. It was noted that section 3.3 is new and is designed to stop clear cutting which results in a change in the hydrology of the land. Applications will be subject to review on an individual basis within the committees. Commercial/industrial clear cutting is still happening. Jamie was requested to review the ordinance to recommend any changes and to determine the best way to move the document to approval.
2. Plan of Conservation & Development – Jamie noted she has been charged with updating the town's Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD). A consultant has been chosen and the scope of work has been defined. Jamie stated a public workshop regarding this plan update will be held on 9/24. A questionnaire has been distributed to all department heads and commissions to gather data. She noted a tour of the town has been conducted to gather information on parks and commercial areas and meetings will be held with focus groups on a smaller scale. The final document should be a strategic long term plan that is visionary with goals and action items for the development of community areas and natural assets.

Grant opportunities were discussed relating to conservation. Don Watson is interested if flood risk is in this plan as it relates to health and safety. It was felt the Conservation Commission should be a part of the POCD with regard to the conservations plans. Jamie noted grant money from the Main Street Fund has been applied for which could be used for development in the Long Hill District because of its unique status as mixed use. This development would include

land enhancements to the Long Hill Green; a possible “trail” on Whitney Avenue towards Indian Ledge, and other development proposals.

3. Jamie discussed the trail connection into the valley and making it more accessible. She would like to connect with the public regarding the natural resources in the town and is looking for a way to engage individuals in special interest groups that would be willing to work towards a common goal. She is looking for more informal ways to promote public awareness and involvement with community issues. It was suggested that she hold an informal meeting for this purpose and post the details in a flyer at the trail heads where outdoor enthusiasts would most likely read it. The use of the house at 579 Church Hill Road was discussed; Jamie noted it will be used as a visitor center and could be used for various other activities as it is developed.

#### **Pending Tabled Topics**

1. GIS – Don Watson will update the commission next month.
2. Natural Resource Inventory – It was noted this could be a part of the POCD as a conservation overlay district. Don Watson has information on how to achieve this as it would be a layer of GIS.
3. Sewer Cross Country Remediation – Tighe and Bond is drawing up remediation plans for the easements.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall  
Clerk