

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT**



Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, January 16, 2013
Nichols Room
7:00pm

Present: Conservation Commissioners: Scot Kerr, Dale Parsons, Jim Sullivan. Mary Ellen Lemay

Absent: Kate Bruzinski, Don Watson, Joanne Parsons

The meeting was called to order at 7:15pm by the Acting Chairman, Scot Kerr.

Calendar Updates

Discussion was held regarding the Fairfield County Regional Conservation Partnership meeting to be held on Wednesday, January 23, 2013. Mary Ellen Lemay noted she would be attending and explained that this is a large organization that oversees the work of smaller, local conservation entities. Their goal is to update mapping of open spaces in Connecticut by looking at large scale topics such as water quality, hiking trails and restoration. The regional partnership is looking to incorporate some of the smaller towns into their organization which could be beneficial to Trumbull in developing the NRI. They may have an expert who could help us with our maps.

Land currently under the land trust was discussed. Suggestion was made that these areas could be managed by the town instead of the land trust or parks department. It was noted that the town purchased several areas of open space within the last 10-15 years. These areas should be inventoried. Currently the 27 acre plot of land is being utilized by the Boy Scouts. They are building a trail system as Eagle Scout projects.

Update from the February 23, 2013 meeting will be given at the Conservation Commission's February meeting.

IWWC

No new applications to be reviewed. Joanne Parsons spoke at their last meeting regarding the Scinto property which was productive and helpful.

Tree Ordinance

Mary Ellen Lemay reported she had a meeting with Elaine Wang, the new Chief of Staff, who reviewed the ordinance. She made some suggestions and commented about enforceability. She was going ahead and making some changes in that regard. The committee wants the ordinance to be restructured so that it has clear regulations and also will be more educational. It was noted the regulations should be tightened up to be enforceable and it was agreed to move forward in that regard. In the future, this project will be renamed **LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION ORDINANCE**. This gives the ordinance a broader scope for the future.

Discussion was held regarding public education so that the residents are aware of the ordinance. It was noted that this ordinance will go before the L&A Committee and then Town Council. Town Council will hold a public hearing to discuss it. The commission could then do PR that covers the benefits of the ordinance. One venue for public awareness would be through the garden clubs.

Natural Resource Inventory

No report. Don Watson circulated draft notes from the meeting. These will be discussed in February.

Materials Management and Recycling

Scot Kerr noted he has been working with Robin Bennet structuring a spread sheet to record recycling data. Numbers have been going up since her arrival; she has done several initiatives to promote recycling. Included in the report is total tonnage, recycling tonnage and percent of recycling. These numbers are obtained from a variety of sources and not all numbers are currently being captured. Discussion of larger bins was held. Ms. Bennet will need to approach the haulers to provide these larger bins for recycling. Perhaps there are incentives, grants or other avenues for funding. Reporting of results of the data should wait until all numbers have been captured to give a more accurate accounting.

Community Service Project

Jim Sullivan discussed the drain stenciling by the Boy Scouts. John Marsilio felt it was a good project and came back with some questions for clarification. Mary Ellen Lemay noted the sewer project is completed so these new storm drains can be stenciled. The town has mapped these drains and it should be easy to get the information for the project. Since household waste is separate from storm drainage, the project will be much easier.

Endangered Species Initiatives

Tabled until next meeting.

Remediation Signage in Twin Brooks

Tabled until next meeting.

Courtyard Habitat

Scot Kerr recently contacted Mr. Palmer at Hillcrest Middle School regarding this project. He noted that the Nature Center has contacts for the United Way who assist with various projects by

supplying manpower and sometimes funding. He will contact them to get on the calendar for the spring. Perhaps they would provide funding to plant trees.

Mary Ellen Lemay noted the Ecology Club at Hillcrest Middle School would like to replant trees on the property that were removed due to damage from the storms. She will contact the garden club regarding this project.

Pequonnock River Initiative

No report.

Sewer Cross Country Remediation Plans

Mary Ellen Lemay noted only one plan has been developed.

Past Minutes

Jim Sullivan moved, Mary Ellen seconded to approve the minutes of December 18, 2012. Unanimous.

Budget Hearings

Mary Ellen Lemay noted the budget hearings will be held in March and Maria Pires will gather the information for the commission. Funding covers membership in organizations, seminars, conferences, etc.

Spring Events

Robin Bennett was investigating a shredding day for the town residents. It was noted, however, that the Trumbull Community Women sponsor this event.

GIS Workshops

Mary Ellen Lemay noted she is taking some GIS workshops within the next few weeks.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be February 20, 2013 at 7pm.

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Jim Sullivan, seconded by Mary Ellen Lemay to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk