

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL  
CONNECTICUT**



Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, February 20, 2013  
Nichols Room  
7:00pm

**Present:** Kate Bruzinski, Don Watson, Scot Kerr, Dale Parsons (7:13pm), Joanne Parsons (7:13pm), Jim Sullivan, Mary Ellen Lemay

The meeting was called to order at 7:08pm by the Acting Chairman, Scot Kerr.

**Past Minutes:** Motion was made by Mr. Watson, seconded by Mr. Sullivan to approve the minutes of January 16, 2013. Approved unanimously.

**Calendar Updates**

Ms. Lemay noted the Connecticut Land Conservation Council will be having a meeting on Friday, February, 22, 2013. Focus will be on land trusts.

Mr. Kerr noted Planning and Zoning will be hosting a summit with the Conservation Commission, Inland Wetlands and Economic Development on the Plan of Conservation and Development on March 26, 2013 at 7:00pm. Members of the commission are encouraged to attend to review the draft.

Mr. Sullivan noted Newtown's Earth Day Festival is in April. One of the green cones and a composter were donated to the event by Trumbull.

Mr. Kerr noted there will be a sale of the composters and green cones in the spring, date to be determined.

**IWWC**

No new applications to be reviewed. Ms. Parson questioned if there was any information about the trees on Quarry Road. No update.

**Landscape Preservation Ordinance**

No update on the revised wording from Elaine Wang; should be available at the March meeting.

## **Natural Resource Inventory**

Mr. Kerr commented on the Planning and Zoning meeting. A section of the draft regarding goals and strategies were reviewed by the representatives from Planimetrics. Topics of discussion included: promotion of Trumbull's image in the region including the Pequonnock River Trail; 300 historical sites in town with possible feedback on each site; areas for zoning changes including upper Route 25 into Monroe and Trumbull Center to 25/8 connector; green infrastructure; PRI watershed plan – should be included in the POCD by reference. It was noted by Ms. Lemay that some type of demonstration or presentation be made to the land use organizations to provide them with this information. A workshop might be the best venue. Additional discussion included encouragement of energy conservation; sidewalks.

Mr. Watson reviewed the notes taken from the December Conservation Commission meeting to extract the top ideas for inclusion in the POCD. Discussion included: NRI document which will need to be developed. Using experts to assess open spaces was suggested. Additional discussion included watershed flood plain protection; the importance of strong regulations; PRI/water quality; vernal pools and upland areas and combining them with endangered species; green infrastructure; extending bike trails; Fairchild Memorial Park as it relates to the bike trail, recycling, landscape preservation ordinance and encourage adoption by the town; water quality and landscape care as it relates to green living. Also discussed cultural history relating to natural environmental issues; master plan of parks; the valley as it relates to ownership and being a part of the master plan of parks; leaf pick-up, species mapping.

Land Trust properties were discussed. It was noted the Conservation Commission has the expertise to manage these properties. Open spaces include parks, land trust properties and green belts. Maps have been created showing these areas but more work needs to be done on the GIS maps so they are properly identified. It was felt the following areas need to be inventoried: utility easements, green belts, parks (active); parks (passive); land acquisitions and land trusts. Ms. Bruzinski noted DEP is currently mapping these types of areas throughout the state. Mr. Watson and Ms. Lemay will speak with Steve Earley regarding this project.

It was agreed that the following topics should be developed for the Conservation Commissions inclusion in the POCD:

- Water shed quality – plan already completed
- Landscape Preservation Ordinance – under review – maintain quality of trees
- Recycling – economic value; reduction of pollution
- Open Space and Wildlife Corridors
- Master Plan of Parks – comprehensive plan

Mr. Watson will put together a draft document to be reviewed by the Commission which can be updated as additional information is gathered. He would like each member of the Commission to write a section of the NRI. When completed, it could be taken to the other commissions for information.

## **Courtyard Habitat**

Ms. Lemay noted the United Way is waiting for information to assess funding requirements and volunteer needs. Discussions with school personnel are on-going. Mr. Kerr and Ms. Lemay will be speaking with the principal regarding a landscape plan that requires little maintenance.

### **Shredding Event**

A shredding event will be held on April 20 at the Nature Center sponsored by the Women's Club. This is a fund raiser for the Club and they encourage everyone to participate.

### **Recycling Reporting**

No report. Statistics are still being refined.

### **Remediation Signage in Twin Brooks**

No report. Information is with Dmitri Paris for review.

### **Endangered Species Initiatives**

Ms. Bruzinski spoke with Pam Georgas regarding the app for tracking of habitats for the cottontail which could also be a start for community input to the NRI. This app is being developed by Richard White to create layers for GIS.

### **Budget Discussions**

Ms. Lemay noted she will be meeting with the Board of Finance next week for next year's budget request. She noted there is still some money in the current budget which could be used for conferences.

### **ATV Concern**

Mr. Sullivan noted that a representative from Waterbury has proposed that ATV's be allowed to be used on state land which would affect Trumbull. After discussion, it was agreed to compose a letter from the Conservation Commission to our state representatives stating that these vehicles are very destructive, have a high pollution level and that the Commission is opposed to this legislation.

### **Fairfield Regional Conservation Partnership**

Ms. Lemay noted there is a meeting of the Fairfield Regional Conservation Partnership which is an organization of land trust and conservation groups. They are looking to connect open space between jurisdictions. They are also looking at data that looks at sites for terrestrial conservation. Local groups are being contacted to work for open space connectivity and wildlife habitats. She noted there is a value to being a part of this organization.

### **Grants**

Discussion was held regarding grant money and non-profit organizations with regard to open spaces. Ms. Lemay noted there are private/public arrangements designed to allow the open space to be managed by the non-profit but owned by the town. This may work well in Trumbull for managing the land trust and open space properties. Logistics would need to be investigated.

### **Greater Bridgeport Regional Council**

Mr. Watson noted the Council has funding mainly for bike trails and GIS but they are working with the towns impacted by Sandy with emergency management coordination.

**Native Plant Seminar**

Ms. Parson noted a seminar will be held in Valhalla at the Native Plant Care Facility in March. Agenda includes native plants and climate change. She will distribute information on the seminar.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Watson, seconded by Ms. Bruzinski, to adjourn the meeting at 9:04pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall  
Clerk