

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT**



Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, April 17, 2013
Long Hill Room
7:00pm

Present: Kate Bruzinski, Scot Kerr, Jim Sullivan, Don Watson, Mary Ellen Lemay, Dale Parsons and Joanne Parsons. Guest speakers: Milan Bull, Sr., Director of Science and Conservation, CT Audubon and Anthony Zemba, Conservation Biologist

The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm by Acting Chairman, Scot Kerr.

Guest Presentation

Mrs. Lemay introduced the guest speakers from the CT Audubon. She noted that state statutes indicate the Conservation Commission should be doing a NRI. Open space mapping was addressed but not all open space is represented because they are owned by several outside entities. The presentation covered topics currently being discussed by the commission which included watershed areas, land trust information, bird habitat, etc. Mr. Milan noted the Audubon Society takes the baseline data and works toward prioritizing categories to be addressed. Once this information is available, inventory and priority mapping can be completed. Mr. Kerr noted he is beginning to categorize parcels now designated as open space which include land trust areas, park land both active and passive and any area used by the community.

Responsibility for maintenance of the open areas was discussed. In town, the Parks Department is responsible for most areas including all recreation areas. It was noted a summit meeting was held to update the POCD and open space is being addressed. Discussion was held regarding how the Audubon Society and the Conservation Commission can work together on this project. The Commission should be taking some steps to develop a plan and narrow down the parcels they want to be protected. The Audubon Society could help develop a conservation management plan. This plan would be on-line so that it can be updated and always current. When this is completed, the Commission could put together a proposal on how to handle the properties.

Discussion was held regarding funding for such a combined effort. The fees for such a project vary according to what is requested. The Pequonnock River Valley was discussed regarding work done on the property by the town which is owned by the state. It was suggested that a study be done on what is appropriate and necessary to take care of the land. Several areas in town need to be addressed with focused maintenance for each. Mr. Watson addressed the Conservation Commission points for the proposed update of the POCD. He noted the best way

to approach this project is to secure grant money. He discussed the topics covered in the public meeting held several months ago that identified areas to be assessed. Mr. Zemba noted the Commission must come up with a plan first and then the conservation management plan needs to be developed to avoid problems and conflicts that might occur if not addressed. It was noted the Conservation Commission would be willing to work with the Parks Department to oversee some of the properties which would allow studies to be done on various parcels.

It was agreed the Commission would like the Audubon Society to put together a plan to help with the NRI. Then sources of funding for the plan of action could be worked on. Mr. Kerr with provide the list of parcels to the Audubon Society and suggested they meet as a working group and put together a proposal.

Past Minutes

One correction was noted by Ms. Crandall, the meeting date should be March 20 not February 20. Motion made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Bruzinski to approve the minutes with the noted correction. Approved unanimously.

Calendar Events

- 1) Document shredding at the Nature Center from 9am-1pm on 4/20 sponsored by the Trumbull Community Women
- 2) POCD working session – 4/23
- 3) Newtown Earth Day Fair – 4/27 – Conservation Commission donated a compost bin and a digester.
- 4) CTAC meeting – 4/29.
- 5) Training session for use of GPS and GIS for management of land trust properties – 5/3.
- 6) CT Land Conservation Council meeting.
- 7) 5/7 – Inland Wetlands Meeting
- 8) 5/13 – Parks Commission
- 9) 5/15 – Conservation Commission

Discussion ensued regarding changing the date of the Conservation Commission so that they could review the information provided regarding IWWC applications. Then, if any action needed to be taken, we would be able to provide guidance to the IWWC when they review the applications at their meeting.

Regular Reports/Project Updates

- 1) NRI – working meeting to be set up with the park ranger to review information.
- 2) Courtyard Habitat and Tree Planting – Mrs. Lemay noted she has been contacted by the United Way stating they have a corporate sponsor and have committed 50 volunteers to help with the plantings. Changes have been made to the plan by Dmitri Paris which includes plans for long term maintenance.
- 3) Materials Management and Recycling – Discussion of Recycling Coordinator job; RWS is providing large recycle bins for a small fee. Another service is doing a trial on one route in town. Solid waste disposal was discussed.
- 4) Sewer Cross Country Remediation Plans – completed.
- 5) Endangered Species Initiatives – tabled.
- 6) Remediation Signage in Twin Brooks – supplies have been purchased.

- 7) Old Mine Water Plantings – grant money was approved to complete the remainder of the project.

New Business

- 1) Land Trust – Mrs. Lemay noted she has spoken with the attorney regarding transferring property to the town. Appropriate wording is being developed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Watson, seconded by Mrs. Parsons, to adjourn the meeting at 9:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk