

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT**



Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting
Thursday, September 5, 2013
6:30pm
Nichols Room

Present: Commissioners Mary Ellen Lemay, Don Watson, Jim Sullivan, Scot Kerr, Joanne Parsons, Dale Parsons. Also Jamie Bratt, Planning & Zoning Director and Tim Coughlin (7:15pm)

Absent: Kate Bruzinski

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by Chairman Lemay.

Past Minutes: It was moved by Don Watson, seconded by Joanne Parsons to approve the minutes of June 27, 2013 as written. Unanimous.

Calendar Updates

Mr. Kerr reviewed a list of meetings with conservation interests and noted:

1. CTAC meeting 9/16 at the Beardsley Zoo
2. Mitigation meeting on 9/24 – this is a key meeting for the town. Attendees will review risk management for the town. Starts at 9am in the Trumbull Library
3. Noresco presentation on 9/26 to discuss energy efficiency plans they have done in other locations. They provide services by looking at buildings and making recommendations for energy efficiency. Services are paid for by the energy savings that are found. Town representatives should be involved in this presentation including board of education.
4. The towns of Easton, Redding and Trumbull will host a kick-off meeting on 9/22 at 2pm in a location to be determined for Solarized CT regarding their solar installation program. Towns will receive points towards incentives for each energy installation booked.

Pequonnock River Trail

Ms. Bratt noted the engineering department is taking the lead on this project. A rendering of the project was reviewed, noting that the Trumbull Center is the last portion of the design to be determined. She noted topography is a deciding factor as well as traffic flow and impact on private property. Discussion was held regarding the various options and components of the plan. It was agreed that two individual plans should be reviewed which would include the trail placement along the river and another with the trail placement along White Plains Road. It was noted the money for design preparation is in place but funding for implementation is not at this

time. Mr. Watson reviewed the flood flow requirements of the bridge over Daniels Farm Road noting it would be a public safety issue. He asked if an engineering report had been conducted on this project. Mrs. Bratt will investigate and report back. Discussion was held regarding trail crossing safety with regard to Daniels Farm Road, Whitney Avenue and Route 111. Mrs. Bratt noted there are advantages and disadvantages to both proposed plans and that no decisions have been made. Mr. Watson noted the information needs to be communicated clearly and that the Greater Bridgeport Regional Council needs to work on this also. A list of criteria should be developed to approach this design decision fairly.

Mr. Coughlin entered the meeting at 7:15pm.

Mrs. Bratt noted options are being investigated to enhance the warning systems on the trail crossings at Whitney Avenue and Route 111. She noted language has been added for future projects to include a full stop of traffic at all trail crossings.

Mr. Watson suggested that a visual of the bike trail be placed in the POCD. This would provide another piece of public education regarding the project.

Plan of Conservation and Development

Mrs. Bratt noted there will be a public meeting on 9/12 to review the draft document. She noted members of the Conservation Commission will be able to make comments on the draft. Mr. Watson asked how the commission could assist in preparing the final document. Mrs. Bratt noted language changes will be made which could be a charge to a peer committee for the document. She noted the key word in the document is “connecting” relating to such areas as the bike trail, real estate, residential, business. A realistic goal is LID. This has a great potential as a unifying concept for green infrastructure. Mr. Watson stated the developers should be encouraged to include green infrastructure in their plans which could be addressed by changing regulations slightly. He noted the Conservation Commission provides professional reviews for the town in several areas. It could help with this by providing language and examples for the POCD. By working together, we can provide a visual of the town and how we are accomplishing projects using conservative measures. The Conservation Commission is an advisory body for the town. Discussion of methods of updating policies for developers and land attorneys to include green infrastructure was held.

Mrs. Lemay briefly discussed the tree ordinance and noted stronger wording was being developed.

DEEP #319 Grants

Mr. Watson noted there is a 319 grant pending to complete the stream-side buffer improvement for the Old Mine project.

Land Trust Property

Mrs. Lemay noted the three former land trust presidents met with the town representatives and drafted the deed to transfer the properties to the town. These properties will remain as open space under the management of the Conservation Commission. Question was raised as to whether the commission requires a document to state we are the custodians of the properties to

be used in the future. This will be investigated. Discussion of the legal responsibility for public access and management of the properties was held. Once the Conservation Commission has the responsibility to monitor these properties, they would also like to have an advisory roll on parcels labeled as passive with no public access (invited). These changes would allow the NRI to progress.

Natural Resource Inventory was discussed. The list with the categorized properties will be sent to the commission for review. Mrs. Lemay noted information could be shared on the websites – www.trumbulllandtrust.com or through the Conservation Commission site hosted by the town. Mr. Watson noted a management plan must be developed for the commission regarding these properties.

IWWC Activities

No concerns reported.

Courtyard Rehabilitation

Mrs. Lemay noted that Mrs. Parsons designed the courtyard project, implemented the purchase of plantings and organized the entire day of work. Plantings were watered over the summer by Mr. Kerr's children. It was suggested that pictures be taken of the project for publicity purposes. Mrs. Lemay noted this had been done and that the science teacher and garden club will be taking over the maintenance of the project for the school year. Discussion of a ribbon cutting ceremony was held and it was noted the project has been put in for a volunteer effort award.

Old Mine Buffer Maintenance

Mrs. Parsons noted overall the project looks good but it does require some maintenance to prevent the area from being overgrown. Discussion of continued maintenance will be held with Dmitri Paris and First Selectman Herbst.

Conservation Commission History

No report from Ms. Bruzinski.

Natural Resource Inventory

Further discussion was held regarding who will undertake particular tasks. Mr. Watson noted the tasks require a biological scientist to work with the commission. Brief discussion of the Rooster River Watershed project was held. Mr. Watson noted water quality issues will be fully documented in this plan. Resource management plan would make this a great document.

Natural Hazard Mitigation

Mrs. Lemay discussed the meeting on 9/24 at the Trumbull Library. Its purpose is to gather the decision makers in Trumbull to work together on these issues.

Rooster River Watershed Based Plan

A meeting will be held on 9/9 where Fuss and O'Neil will present their report. A draft will be sent to the members.

ASLA

Mrs. Lemay noted a meeting of the CT Chapter will be held for landscape planners and transportation officials which might be of interest to Mrs. Bratt.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk