

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL  
CONNECTICUT**



Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, October 23, 2013  
7:00pm  
Nichols Room

**Present:** Commissioners Mary Ellen Lemay, Don Watson, Jim Sullivan, Joanne Parsons, Scot Kerr. Also present Tim Coughlin

**Absent:** Dale Parsons

The meeting was called to order at 7:12pm by Chairman Lemay.

**Past Minutes:** It was moved by Mr. Watson, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to approve the minutes of September 25, 2013 as written. Unanimous.

### **Calendar Updates**

Mrs. Lemay noted the following:

1. The second part of the Resilient CT Workshop will be held on 10/24/13 from 8:30am-12:30pm at Fairfield University. Discussion will be energy.
2. Update for the Natural Hazard Mitigation meeting will be held on 10/29/13 from 1-2:30pm.
3. Connecticut Urban Forestry Conference will be 10/30/13 from 8am-3:30pm at the Aquaturf.
4. Next CACIWK meeting is 11/16/13 in Cromwell.
5. CTAC meeting is 11/18/13.
6. The Trumbull Conservation Commission has been invited to the Monroe Conservation Commission on 11/6/13 at 7:30pm to review a plan to develop the property near the Swiss Army building. This property is located in the Pequonnock River watershed which could provide an opportunity for green infrastructure.

### **DEEP #319 Grants**

Mrs. Lemay noted no update. Frank Smeriglio attended the last CTAC meeting and noted the funding should be available soon.

**Urban Forest Canopy Assessment:** Mrs. Lemay noted there is an opportunity for an urban forest canopy assessment to be conducted by the University of Vermont. Grant money is being

applied for with matching money coming from the communities. This assessment will evaluate the tree canopy to see how healthy it is and to also identify areas that would benefit from replanting. This is a regional project that would be renewed each year. Question was raised as to the availability of funding to replant once the assessment is completed. It was noted it is unlikely there is funding to remediate the areas identified although this data would be helpful to provide large scale analysis to see where replanting needs to be done. Communities would need to budget for replacement. Funding from the town would be available for the assessment which is approximately \$3,000. November 1 is the deadline for the application. Mr. Smeriglio will need to apply by that date for Trumbull to participate.

### **POCD Hearing**

It was noted the hearing date has been moved to January 2014.

### **Landscape Preservation Ordinance**

No update. Ordinance is still being reviewed by Mrs. Wang. Discussion of the green pages was held. These documents were extracted from the Landscape Preservation Ordinance to provide educational information. These will be beneficial to Mrs. Bratt, Planning and Zoning and in discussion with the Parks Commission. It was agreed that ownership of the ordinance needs to be decided by the administration prior to implementation.

### **Land Trust Property**

No update. Document is with the town attorneys. Discussion was held regarding the role in the management of these parks by the Parks Commission and the Conservation Commission. It was noted that the commission does not have a representative from the town who sits on it as the commission works in an advisory capacity. Mr. Smeriglio, in his capacity as Town Engineer, works closely with the commission on its projects.

### **IWWC Activities**

Information will be reviewed by Mr. Parsons for the next meeting.

### **Eagle Scout Invasive Removal Project**

Mrs. Lemay noted she walked the area in Twin Brooks designated for this project which is near pond #5 with the Boy Scout. This area was suggested by Dmitri Paris where invasives are taking over the banks. The park ranger met with the scout who felt there was not enough work at this location to do a project and the area could not be expanded in that location to encompass a larger area. Mrs. Lemay will clarify the scope of the proposed project with Mr. Paris and discuss why the scout determined there was not sufficient work for a project.

Discussion was held regarding the relationship between Conservation Commission and the Parks Commission and the regulation of volunteer projects.

### **Meadow Remediation**

Map was reviewed from the Army Corp of Engineers showing the remediation of the meadow at Twin Brooks Park. Restoration and mitigation measures have been approved for the area. It was noted that a management plan should be developed for the area.

Mr. Sullivan left the meeting at 8:30pm.

It was suggested that Mr. Paris be invited to conduct a walk through with the commission to review the area. Mrs. Lemay will request a list of plants to be planted in the meadow.

### **New Members Pending**

Mrs. Lemay noted letters have been received regarding potential membership on the commission. As of December, there will be two spots open. Discussion of alternates was held which would be an advantage to the commission in the area of diversity of interests.

Discussion of commissioner roles was held. Mrs. Parsons noted the commission needs to delegate responsibilities within the commission for various projects so that everyone feels they are making a contribution. By breaking down the tasks into tangible projects, each commissioner can work on something in their area of interest or expertise. It was also noted the commission has numerous initiatives to focus on and the scopes of these projects are very large. It was recommended that projects be prioritized. It was also recommended that the mission statement in the town charter be updated. Discussion was held regarding the degree to which the Conservation Commission should be bringing initiatives to other commissions. The commission's advisory position has been more readily accepted recently and this has been beneficial is working together on several community initiatives.

Mr. Watson suggested that portfolios should be identified for the projects. The following projects were identified:

1. Inland Wetland Activities
2. NRI (required by state statute)
3. Watershed Management (required by state statute)
4. 319 Grant Opportunities
5. CTAC – Mrs. Lemay stated CTAC is discussing a study of the water quality testing for levels of E Coli. This would be a base line report which would need to be conducted in the near future in Trumbull. Mr. Smeriglio will speak to the commission regarding funding. Earthplace would need to be contacted for the cost of the study. Funding may be available through DEEP.
6. Trees
7. Flood Mitigation
8. Land Trust

Mr. Watson suggested that youth diversity and education could be done as an alternate. Mrs. Lemay noted she has received a letter of resignation from the commission from Kate Brusinski and a letter of request from Tim Coughlin to be considered as a replacement until the end of her term.

### **Agenda Items for November**

Hazard Mitigation report, Administrative Assistant status, candidates for commission/addition of alternates, IWWC, Green Pages update, walk-through with Mr. Paris possibly 11/8.

**Hoods in Storm Drains**

Discussion was held on hoods on the outflow in the storm drains. These filter out pollutants and debris. Cost for the project would need to be determined. This could be considered under the 640b grants for clean water.

**Next Meeting**

November meeting will be November 7, 2013 in the Tashua Room.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Watson, seconded by Mrs. Parsons to adjourn the meeting at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall  
Clerk