

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT**



Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, April 30, 2014
7:00pm
Nichols Room, Town Hall

Present: Chairman Mary Ellen Lemay, Donald Watson, Tim Coughlin, Joanne Parsons

Absent: Dale Parsons, Scot Kerr, Jim Sullivan

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lemay at 7:07 pm.

Past Minutes: It was moved by Mr. Watson to approve the minutes of February 26, 2014 as written. Seconded by Mrs. Parsons and approved unanimously.

Calendar Updates

The following events were noted:

1. May 3 – Mr. Watson and Mrs. Lemay will attend the Climate Adaption Academy in Groton. Topics are related to the State of Connecticut flood habitat impact.
2. May 22 – Webinar from the National Fish and Wildlife Service from the Long Island Sound Study. Discussion was held regarding the fact that non-profits or municipalities are able to apply with projects that directly impact the sound. This could include a project through CTAC/Greater Bridgeport Regional Council for a sensitive water overlay district. This project would need GIS input and the town would have to meet stricter guidelines. Mrs. Lemay will meet with the representative on May 5 to get more information. This would be a three town initiative. Mr. Watson noted there is a definition in the PRI which is the basis for this initiative. Three levels of funding are available to apply for.
3. May 10 – GBRC is holding a meeting with the six towns to develop a comprehensive regional plan.
4. Planting Day for the Glenwood Buffer, located at the fish ladder. This is run by the Long Island Sound group. It was noted that approved wetland herbicides will be applied prior to the planting by volunteers. Bridgeport will be doing some of the planting in the more difficult locations and will also be doing the maintenance for the next 2-3 years.

New Commissioner

Mrs. Lemay welcomed Mr. Coughlin as an official member of the Conservation Commission.

DEEP #319 Grants

Mr. Watson noted the town is waiting for the official letter to be received before the project is started. Mrs. Lemay will meet with Mr. Marsilio and speak with him regarding this. Beardsley Zoo is being held up because of signing contracts.

Utility Vegetation Plan

Mrs. Lemay noted a meeting was held with some of the tree wardens. A resolution was written to support a moratorium on tree removal in the Bridgeport area. This was presented to the First Selectmen for their approval and then it will be presented at the state level. All present at the meeting are in favor of this moving forward. It is unknown if Trumbull will vote in favor. It was noted that other areas have requested this and have been denied. However, this may be due to contracts already in place that must be honored. Conditions are written in the resolution.

Tree City Designation

Mrs. Lemay noted Monroe has received this designation every year since 2005. She spoke with Marvin Moss of the Tree Conservancy Group and found the tree warden prepares the application each year. Annual per capita tree funding is required. Trumbull does not have that money budgeted. However, they do have a tree removal and a tree management account. These funds could be used for removal, planting and maintenance.

It was noted Mrs. Bratt's staff could not support the tree ordinance because it was dealing with private property. The commission could now revisit the public tree proposal. It is felt the town should move forward with the tree plan and develop funding.

Monroe Conservation and Water Resource Commission

Mrs. Lemay presented a brochure that gives an overview of the commission.

Trumbull Life

Mrs. Lemay noted that the Trumbull Life Magazine has had three articles/references regarding the Twin Brooks and Old Mine Projects. An additional article will be in the next issue regarding the project at Twin Brooks.

Mr. Watson left the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Discussion was held regarding the plantings at Old Mine Park and the silt fence. DEEP initially recommended staggering to allow migration of amphibians.

Mrs. Lemay noted the Conservation Commission could write articles for the Trumbull Life Magazine on such topics as pollinators, trees, storm water green infrastructure, green building, lawn care. It would only be 300 words and can include pictures. She noted that Mr. Watson and Linda Thomas developed a children's game regarding birds and plants which would also be used.

Tashua Tree Planting

Mr. Coughlin noted two trees were planted in the front of Tashua School. He would like to go back next year and plant more. This was part of the Earth Day celebration. It was noted that Aquarian has an annual tree planting. The commission might ask if they were interested in the Tashua School project. Ideal time to approach them would be in December for next spring.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Coughlin, seconded by Mrs. Parsons, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk

These minutes are considered a draft until approved at the next meeting of the Conservation Commission.