

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL  
CONNECTICUT**



Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, June 4, 2014  
7:00pm  
Tashua Room, Town Hall

**Present:** Chairman, Mary Ellen Lemay; Tim Coughlin, Joanne Parsons, Dale Parsons, Jim Sullivan

**Absent:** Donald Watson, Scot Kerr

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lemay at 7:40pm.

**Past Minutes:** It was moved by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Parsons, to approve the minutes of April 30, 2014 as written. Approved unanimously.

### **Calendar Updates**

The following events were noted:

1. June 6 – in Milford – UConn Center for Land Use Education - Geospatial Technologies. 8:30am to 12:30pm.
2. June 7 – Land Use Decisions and the Future of New England to be held at Highstead. Lecture and trail walk. Highstead is in Redding and is owned by Harvard Forest. They have many programs year round. Mrs. Lemay shared a brochure on a Native Tree and Shrub Walk. Discussion was held regarding hosting a program like this. The Hallaby Preserve would be a great place for this type of program. It was also noted that Trumbull does host such a program in the Valley which is more natural history than native trees. This past week they had a speaker from Audubon CT speaking about bird habitats and Mrs. Lemay showed two brochures for healthy schoolyard and neighborhood. It encourages setting up green scapes, backyard habitats, meadows and commercial properties
3. July 1—the new budget starts and money has been set aside for water quality testing in the Pequonnock River. Public Works will be putting out an RFP. In the past they have used Harbor Watch and most likely they will be the ones to conduct this testing which should start after July 1. They will do ten spots in the river in July, August and September testing for e-coli, water temperature, dissolved oxygen and looking for hot spots to find large concentrations of e-coli. This testing will help us obtain 319 funding but will not be every year. This testing was proposed by the Town Engineer. Funding is from the town budget this time, not through grant funding.

### **Briefings**

1. DEEP 319 Grants - Mrs. Lemay spoke with Chris Malik and he stated that DEEP is waiting to hear from the EPA. The EPA approved the funding for approximately \$25,000. Mr. Malik noted

the money is available until November of 2018 which gives plenty of time to work out a schedule for matching labor for the Old Mine project. Design plans have been discussed with Mr. Paris.

2. Tree Landscape Preservation Ordinance – Mrs. Lemay noted that last week at the Greater Bridgeport Regional meeting, an attorney for the Connecticut Fund for the Environment spoke about the Vegetative Management Plan for the State. PURA, the utilities organization, was reviewing a new plan but had not come out with their recommendations but now have made public. This review will go to DEEP and DEEP will review the plans and comment. This attorney also noted that he has made recommendations for a tree trimming ordinance for the municipalities to roll out. We already have the template for one and we can review and insert some of the recommendations. The attorney used Greenwich as the model for the template. The towns and the tree wardens in the towns will be given power to define a tree ordinance. Some towns are utilizing a permit for tree trimming within the town. This will be distributed to the towns when it is available. In that way, the towns will be on the same page. The DOT Commissioner makes the decisions for the state roads; however, the town can communicate with the DOT and ask the DOT to follow the towns permit. This could include noticing of trees and historic designations. Funding of the ordinances is in question but the DEEP is working with the utilities to get funding for the work. More arborists need to be hired and it should be a requirement that the town wardens/arborists are certified. Mr. Coughlin noted the state passed legislation that the utilities need to have permission from the home owners to do any tree work. A resolution was written by the GBRC and its Conservation group for a moratorium to stop tree work. This went out to the six First Selectmen in the Council and they agreed by majority in favor of a moratorium. Bridgeport has a separate agreement with the utilities. Now the town legislators can go to Hartford and say that for the six towns in the Council, no tree cutting can be done for the next six to nine months until an ordinance is reviewed and established.
3. UConn is doing research on how to grow storm resistant trees. They are looking at edge areas such as along roads to see why certain trees were resilient enough to withstand all the storms. They feel that the trees exposed to wind currents from different directions over the decades made it stronger. Trees further from the edge were weaker. They are trying to open up areas in the dense canopy so the winds can come through and the trees can become more resilient farther away from the edge. Various organizations are funding this research.
4. Green Pages were given to Mr. Marsilio and Mr. Paris for review. They were approved. Funding was to come from Mrs. Bratts budget and these pages should be included in the tax bill.
5. IWWC Activities – Mr. Parsons noted he will review two requests included in the paperwork. Discussion was held regarding the Bill property request. It was suggested an email be sent to the IWWC regarding the two requests with recommendations.
6. Article in Trumbull Life regarding the meadow was reviewed.
7. GBRC Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan – previously discussed.
8. Regional Plan of Conservation and Development – we have our town plan completed and now they are doing a regional plan.
9. Climate Adaption Academy on May 3 – Mrs. Lemay and Mr. Watson attended this program.
10. Glenwood Park Fish Passage Buffer --- Mrs. Parsons noted it went well. The landscape architect worked hard on the project with over 70 volunteers on site. The maintenance department from the City of Bridgeport will maintain the area. Old Mine Park was their model project.
11. Tashua School Tree Planting – completed. Mr. Coughlin wants to continue planting trees each year and is continuing to handle the maintenance. Mr. Coughlin's son has also asked if he could come to some of the Conservation Commission meetings to gather information. It was noted there is no high school representative and he would be very welcome.
12. Clams and Cocktails – June 21 – information sent to the Commissioners. This is a fund raiser for Harbor Watch and Earth Place.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Parsons, seconded by Mr. Sullivan to adjourn the meeting at 8:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall  
Clerk

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