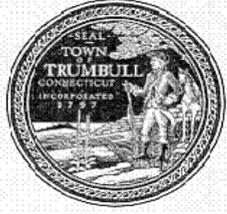


**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT**



Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, May 27, 2015
7:00 pm

Present: Chairman Mary Ellen Lemay; Commissioners Jim Sullivan, Joanne Parsons, Dale Parsons, Lars Jorgensen

Absent: Don Watson and Tim Coughlin

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 pm by Chairman Lemay.

Mrs. Lemay noted she attended a meeting earlier at the Nichols Library with residents of Hilltop Drive. Several trees have been removed by the town recently in the town right of way. This removal started with one dead tree and one tree in the wires. The tree warden requested the town remove these trees in particular but it has extended to several others along the street. None of the trees have been posted for removal. Mr. Herbst, Mrs. Bratt, Mr. Paris were at this meeting also. Mr. Marsilio called a meeting yesterday and spoke about establishing a replacement plan for trees that have to be removed. They are now developing a replacement plan with the right tree in the right place and a list of species and how far back they should be planted. All this information has been accumulated over the years by the commission. This will be a cost sharing effort with the homeowner and will be a first to have trees replanted in the town's right of way.

The idea is to come up with a plan for different heights of trees in the right places which follows the UI recommendations and the information on the tree flyer designed by the commission. The flyer will be printed and distributed to residents. This is the catalyst for reawakening the tree issue. Other areas will be reviewed for information on their programs. Mr. Herbst committed to this subsidized tree replacement. Discussions have just started on this program. Residents are upset with the removal of the trees and not posting them. Mrs. Lemay noted at the meeting yesterday, those in favor of posting the trees included Mrs. Bratt, Mr. Paris and herself. Mr. Marsilio and Mr. Jacques, the tree warden, were not in favor. Mr. Marsilio is looking for a policy for the evaluation of the health of the trees and a plan for tree replacement. This would be a town-wide program.

The commission's plan will be to take out the private property section of the tree document, keeping in the new developments and the town right of way. An additional section will be added on replacement of trees as the commission will be part of the conversation of picking the species. Mr. Coughlin will be asked for his input regarding the evaluation of the trees and perhaps work with Mr. Paris.

Mrs. Lemay will distribute to the commissioners the link to a draft of a tool kit, developed by many organizations, which lists the nine best practices to encourage the town to write a tree plan. A tree plan

was drafted several years ago by the commission. The town was not in favor of the section regarding private property. It was agreed to remove this portion but the plan didn't move forward.

Mr. Sullivan noted the tree planting at Tashua School has not been done.

Briefings

1. CTAC meeting review and grant updates – no report.
2. Rail to Trail – no update. It was agreed the commission should visit the area to see what is being done first hand now that plants have bloomed.
3. IWWC – no documents for review. There has been no action on the Daniels Farm Road project.
4. Booth Hill project was approved by Planning and Zoning. Monuments will be placed at the property line as requested.
5. Open space was discussed. The open space connected to the Booth Hill project is under discussion. Discussions with other land trusts are being conducted that are more active than Trumbull's. Mrs. Lemay noted the oversight of the open space would fall under the Conservation Commission once a decision is made on the disposition of the properties.
6. Pequonnock Water Testing Plan – no update. No update on 319 grant for Long Hill that was submitted.

Changes to Parks and Recreation Department

Mrs. Lemay noted a new director has been hired who will work under Mr. Marsilio. He is the former Parks Director from Westport.

Calendar Events

Mrs. Parsons noted she and Mrs. Lemay attended a meeting at the Peabody Museum on meadows. Mrs. Lemay had been contacted regarding the restoration of the meadow in the Nichols area. They are looking into what should be done with the invasives and trees. This area is approximately 2 acres. A walk through is planned to see what needs to be done and what exactly is in the meadow that needs to be addressed now that plants have bloomed.

Next meeting will be held on June 24, 2015.

Past Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Parsons, to approve the minutes as written. Approved unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Mrs. Parsons, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk

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