

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
JUNE 24, 2010
NICHOL'S ROOM

The meeting was called to order at 7:15PM by Mary Ellen Lemay. Also in attendance were Joanne Parsons, Dale Parsons, and Julie Jenkins.

Minutes from the May meeting were approved.

Mary Ellen reported that the relocation of the Nature Center is still in the idea phase at town hall, however there has been a preliminary plan drawn up by an architect for a 5,000 sq ft building.

Mary Ellen reported on the Pequonock River Initiative which is a partnership plan between Monroe, Trumbull, and Bridgeport primarily to focus on the quality of the water in the river. A meeting is to be held on June 29 at 1:00 in the Annex of Bridgeport City Hall. Dale said he planned to attend and Mary Ellen will go in Don Watson's place (Don is on the committee but will be out of town). The organizing groups behind this initiative are DEP, Save the Sound, and CT River Authority.

Mary Ellen said that Don spoke with the new Public Works Director about establishing a reverse 911 plan to alert residents of an oncoming heavy storm and potential flooding, specifically something which would impact Trumbull center.

Mary Ellen reported that on July 8 there will be a pilot meeting with CDM (company with Trumbull's GIS contract) to discuss the progress so far. Four tiles have been completed. The meeting will be in Trumbull Town Hall at 12:00. Julie, Joanne, and Dale said they may attend.

Mary Ellen said there is nothing new with the Magnet School.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Jenkins

Don Watson submitted the following letter to be added to the minutes:

MEMORANDUM June 22, 2010

To: Trumbull Conservation Commission
Fr: Donald Watson, member, Conservation Commission

C: D. Nelson, J. Marsillo, W. Chiarenzelli, R. Kirby

Re: Summary of June 22, 2010 meeting and discussion of Trumbull Flood Emergency Preparedness

At the suggestion of John Marsilio, Trumbull Public Works Director, I met today at the Trumbull Policy Headquarters with Bill Chiarenzelli, Deputy Directory Office of Emergency Management (OEM), also joined by Lt. Ronald Kirby, Director of Emergency Management.

The purpose of the meeting was to gain information helpful to the Conservation Commission as related to flooding and the Town's emergency provisions for flooding. This is of interest to the Conservation Commission, given the charge established at the time of its formation, to address flooding and also public education opportunities, among other open space and conservation issues of the Town.

The discussion was very helpful and concluded with the following points of information and mutual interest between the Trumbull OEM and the Commission.

Flood emergency preparedness information that is currently available to the public includes:

- The Town's official website carries information and encourages the public to review materials (brochures, and checklists) related to emergencies. These are found by following the Website prompts for "Emergency Preparedness" and then several prompts related to flooding, which direct the public to FEMA publications (www.floodsmart.com) and other FEMA listings that provide flood and disaster preparedness information.
- Town Emergency planning provisions include flooding disaster readiness and response, including EMS and Diving Team training with on-call status during flooding. Among the most severe flooding events in Trumbull was the September 1985 Hurricane Gloria. After crossing Long Island Sound, the remnants of Hurricane Gloria made landfall near Bridgeport. Twin Brooks area flooding was increased by blockage to downstream flow of the Pequonnock River caused at that time by incomplete construction of the Route 25 connector. Some residents in the Twin Brooks area were evacuated by boat. Approximately 20 families were housed in emergency shelters.
- Town capacity to issue emergency advisories that can be telephoned to Trumbull residents that have telephones through the "Reverse 911" service. This has been recently implemented (December 2009) in advance of severe winter storms.

The following suggestions were discussed, for consideration of the Conservation Commission for future action upon mutual consent and explicit review and approval of Town attorneys and the First Selectman:

- Getting more information out about flooding: If the Conservation Commission or other parties consider it beneficial, and if approved by responsible officials, an advisory message can be transmitted by telephone using the "Reverse 911" capacity and addressed to those residences that are within the flood plain and at risk of flooding. The designation of those residences must be explicitly reviewed and approved by Town Flood Plain Administrator (S. Savarese). The message must be advisory only and issued on an annual (or more frequent) basis, but not part of any particular storm warning (during which time the public communication is under direct control of Emergency Preparedness officers).
- More explicit guidance on the Town website: If more explicit information needs to be added to the website (in addition to the prompts to FEMA material), that information can be developed, reviewed and placed on the Town website.

- Consideration of other steps previously recommended by consultants (such as lowering of water in Pinewood Lake) will more explicit review and approvals of the Town Engineering Department and are outside of the purview of OEM.

In concluding the discussion, I expressed on behalf of the Commission our thanks to Bill Chiarenselli and Lt. Kirby for their responsiveness and also extended appreciation for everything that the OEM staff and volunteers of the Town's EMS unit provides.

Respectfully submitted,
Donald Watson