

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT**



**Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, January 31, 2024
7:00 pm
Long Hill Conference Room, Town Hall**

AGENDA

Call to Order

Approval of Past Minutes - November 30, 2023

New Business

1. Introduction of New and Existing Conservation Commission Members
2. Election of New Chair
3. Conservation Commission Overview:
 - a. Responsibilities, Schedule, Limitations, Technical Advisory Status, Challenges
 - b. Review of Commission 2023 Accomplishments List and Goals
 - c. New Trees Initiative
 - d. New Zoning Steep Slope Regulation

Old Business

1. Budget Hearing with First Selectman, Feb. 5 at 3:30 pm in Town Hall, Long Hill Conference Room
4. Important IWWC Sites
5. Status of Senior Center - Hardy Lane Location

Next Meeting: February 28, 2024

Adjournment

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
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Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting
Thursday, November 30, 2023
Long Hill Conference Room – Trumbull Town Hall
7:00 pm

Present: Chairman, Mary Ellen Lemay, Tim Coughlin, Matthew Sulzicki, Richard Post and John Massari

Absent: Pam Roman and Sara Sterling

Also Present: Janet Epstein

Mrs. Lemay called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Past Minutes

Clarification was made to the minutes of August 30, 2023. Page 3 under Waterside Brochure Distribution - reactions to the brochure and accompanying letter were positive. Negative reactions related to violations witnessed. **Motion was made by Mr. Coughlin to approve the minutes of August 30, 2023 as amended. Seconded by Mr. Post and approved with one abstention by Mr. Sulzicki.**

New Business

End of Year Recap, Status of Projects

1. Tree City Designation, through the National Arbor Day Foundation, was received March 2023. Should plan on an Arbor Day reveal. Mr. Paris is assigning a staff person to be the contact with the State handling these awards to keep up with the requirements. Mrs. Lemay will contact the State Arborist to change the contact on the Conservation Commission to Mr. Coughlin.
2. 1000 Trees for Trumbull Brochure was completed Spring 2023. This document was designed by Mrs. Roman and is being distributed in various locations in the Town.
3. Approximately 75 trees were planted in Twin Brooks Park in Spring 2023. Mr. Coughlin spoke with Mr. Paris about the next phase in Spring 2024. Mr. Paris agreed to use the funds available for a project in Indian Ledge Park. Mr. Coughlin will continue to work with Mr. Paris regarding ordering native plants and the planting schedule. Long Hill Green update is planned. Should speak with Ms. Bakalar for information. Donations have been received for the initiative and are currently being held in the Pollinator Pathway 501(c)3 which can be used to purchase shrubs/trees for various projects. Mrs. Lemay is working with the Town Attorney regarding an alternative to the Commission setting up their own 501(c)3 to hold the donations. Funds would

be used specifically for trees.

4. Twin Brooks Biodiversity Mosaic sign will be completed in Winter 2023. The sign was designed by Don Watson, former Conservation Commission member, with the assistance of his partner, Linda. The hope is it will be placed in the park before the ground freezes. This sign highlights the biodiversity of the park and will be placed in the park by the bridge over the Housatonic River near the Vietnam Memorial Park. Additional posters will be placed in the kiosks in the park.
5. Trumbull Native Plant List/Brochure was completed in January 2023. This was designed by Mrs. Roman and is provided to the IWWC for applications with landscape planning. The brochure is also distributed at the Farmers Market and is on the Town website.
6. Trumbull Waterside Buffer Brochure (for lake communities) was completed in June 2023. This was distributed to households around Pinewood Lake and Dogwood Lake. It will be distributed to the Canoe Brook Lake area and other areas as well in the Spring. Residents found the information was useful and a good resource. Mrs. Lemay will check to make sure the letter and brochure are on the Town website.
7. Conservation and Sustainability Survey (2022) was completed and shared in April 2022. A Power Point presentation was done and shared with various town land use departments. A Power Point of the Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) was also shared.
8. Steep Slope Regulations added to Article X, Sediment and Erosion Control Regs, in August 2023. The Town Attorney was successful in adding this regulation which is very important for the land use boards when reviewing applications. The application for Valley View had a significant slope which became a problem. Mr. Massari has been in contact with the State regarding the violations and will continue to monitor the process with DEP.
9. Kaatz Pond Landscape Plan was approved that was designed by the Commission. Funding continues to be received for the project. The builder incorporated the design into the drawings to be sent to IWWC.

Goals for 2024

1. Continue site exploration for 1000 Trees project (riparian buffer trees, street trees, new developments, Long Hill Green).
2. Work closely with Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) consultant, Thomas Madden. It was noted there is a survey on line that can be taken by interested residents. Mr. Madden has indicated he would like to attend a Conservation Commission for exchange of ideas.
3. Locate additional Pollinator Pathway demonstration sites (entrance to Tashua Knolls). Mrs. Roman continues to provide outreach and education on the initiative.
4. Outreach and education on native and invasive plant species.
5. Evaluate feasibility of gas-powered leaf blower restriction (Norwalk, Westport, Ridgefield, etc.)
6. Outreach and education on riparian buffers and steep slopes.

Conservation Commission Budget

Mrs. Lemay distributed a copy of the Commission budget that must be completed yearly with a summary of accomplishments and goals. Additional funding was approved in this fiscal year's budget for printing of brochures.

Commissioner Terms and New Members

Mrs. Lemay noted she will be stepping off the Commission after more than a decade of service. She also noted Mrs. Roman, Mrs. Sterling and Mr. Sulzicki will also be leaving for various reasons. Three individuals, potential new members, will be speaking with the First Selectman about their interest in being Commissioners.

A thank you was expressed from all the Commissioners to Mrs. Lemay for her years of volunteer service on the Commission. They noted the many accomplishments achieved over the years through her hard work and enthusiasm.

New Business

All items listed under New Business were previously discussed.

Question was raised regarding who would be reviewing the IWWC applications in the future. Mrs. Lemay noted all the Commission members receive the information and will continue to review and respond as necessary.

Meeting Dates for 2024

Tentative dates were discussed by the Commission and approved. The next meeting of the Commission will be January 31, 2024. Meeting will be held in person at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk