

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT**



Trumbull Conservation Commission Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, January 26, 2022
7:00 pm

Present: Chairman Mary Ellen Lemay, Commissioners Matthew Sulzicki, Sara Sterling, Pam Roman, John Massari and Richard Post

Absent: Tim Coughlin

Also present: Janet Epstein (entered at 8:13 pm)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lemay at 7:04 pm.

Past Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Sulzicki to approve the minutes of December 1, 2021 as written. Seconded by Mrs. Sterling and approved with abstentions from Mrs. Roman, Mr. Massari and Mr. Post.

Draft of Goals for 2022 and Successes and Accomplishments from 2021

Mrs. Lemay noted she had an initial budget meeting on Monday where she shared this report.

Successes and Accomplishments:

1. The NRI was presented to the Parks Commission, Public Works and Engineering Department
2. Hosted Pollinator Pathway events
3. Prepared advisory letters to IWWC on the Moorefield Property and Pinewood Lake (Mrs. Lemay noted there was a walk-through on the Moorefield property and the developer agreed not to take down any of the trees as previously requested but will plant additional trees in the area of the driveway. A tree expert attended the IWWC meeting and noted the trees were healthy and provided a service in water/soil management. If removed, they would need to be replaced. The Pinewood Lake property in previous discussions has been sold. It is unknown what the new owner may do.)
4. Filled four spots on the Conservation Commission
5. Achieved Silver Certification for Sustainable CT

Goals

1. Work on public survey on conservation, open space and tree issues with Sustainable CT to be completed by June 2022 (Additional funding was requested in the budget for projects that develop from the survey.)
2. Begin outreach for Thousand Trees for Trumbull/Tree Replacement project (First Selectman Tesoro is interested in hearing more on this topic.)
3. Gain support for the Trumbull Community Garden expansion
4. Draft a model riparian corridor and watershed protection regulation as mandated by State of CT (PA 21-29) law (10-21) and add it to the zoning regulations (Discussion was held regarding the new regulations now mandated by the State, who enforces the new regulations and how the Conservation Commission will work with the regulations. It was felt that the Commission should create and insert the regulations into the P&Z regulations as it specifically focuses on zoning.)
5. Draft a native plant ordinance for new development landscape plans.

Discussion was held regarding the use of a QR code to help facilitate some of these items of interest, especially within the park system. This can be included as a Conservation Commission project. Gleaning information from the website as to how the QR code was accessed (phone, website) is currently unavailable. However, Mr. Chin, IT, noted there are some programs that do record analytics such as this which would need to be purchased. Mrs. Lemay thought Ms. Bakalar may be able to help secure funding for this project.

Status of Sustainable Trumbull Submission for Silver and Plans for 2022

Mrs. Roman noted Trumbull earned the Silver Certificate in November and is one of a few towns in that category. A meeting was held with the First Selectman to review initiatives and goals over the next two years as they must recertify in three years.

1. Tree plan (already drafted by the Conservation Commission; would like to push if forward)
2. Composting Initiative (location at Transfer Station)
3. Energy efficiency with electrical vehicle chargers around town
4. Enhanced Recycling
5. Met with Big Belly regarding compacting bins (This information was sent to Mrs. Tesoro to distribute to Mr. Paris and Public Works for their consideration to place them in the parks.)
6. Park and Ride Area Initiative (Reminders to the public of the right things to do)
7. Tree replacement Initiative
8. Riparian Protection Ordinance
9. Community Garden Expansion (Discussion was held regarding the Westport Community Garden success and how Trumbull's Community Garden, located in Abraham Nichols Park, could be enhanced and enlarged.)

Discussion was held regarding the Native Plant Ordinance and how to make it user friendly by paring the current list down to the top five and giving visuals to help residents with decisions. Mrs. Roman will work on this ordinance as Sustainable CT already has a large list of native plants and she will use that information to draft a simpler version. This would be an asset to homeowners as well as developers.

Discussion was held regarding the Riparian Protection Ordinance. There are some examples available that would be useful to make a short and simple document. Steep slope and clear cut information should be included. Mr. Sulzicki will work on this ordinance.

Discussion was held on the Tree Replacement Initiative. The focus should be on replanting and should be included in the town survey to see what people are interested in seeing done in the Town.

At this time, First Selectman Tesoro entered the meeting (7:52 pm) and swore in Mrs. Roman for another term on the Commission from December 6, 2021 – December 4, 2023 and Mr. Sulzicki for another term on the Commission from December 6, 2021 – December 4, 2023.

Town Survey on Sustainability

Mrs. Sterling presented a draft survey she prepared and discussed some considerations such as design of the survey, the need to determine what is the goal of the survey and what they want it to support, working with other entities to give a broader base for the questions and timing.

Janet Epstein entered the meeting at 8:13 pm and noted several years ago the Community Facilities Building Committee and the Aquatic Facilities Building Committee worked with a professional service to develop a community survey regarding a new pool. She suggested this could be a model for the proposed Conservation survey. She also noted her background is in medical surveys and is concerned about the survey being too directional and bias. Additional discussion was held. The Aspetuck Land Trust survey was shared that was developed by Mrs. Sterling. Mrs. Sterling will attend the next Sustainable team meeting to speak about the survey.

Stormwater Management Presentation

Mr. Sulzicki discussed information on a presentation he attended on stormwater management. The presenter is a stormwater landscape designer/architect who presented information on such topics as rain barrels for water management, permeable pavements, alternatives to concrete, rain gardens, green roofs and a focus on natural systems. All the information presented would be useful to the land use boards. It was agreed that this speaker had a good presentation and that a program should be considered for Trumbull. Mrs. Roman noted that Sustainable CT may be looking for presenters during Earth Week in the spring or the Library may be looking for presenters for their program series. Mrs. Lemay will reach out to the speaker to see what types of programs he has and set up a presentation. An invitation would be extended to Planning and Zoning, Engineering and other land use boards. Mr. Massaro noted he can provide signs to advertise the event and he will work with Mr. Post on the QR code initiative.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Commission will be on February 23, 2022.

Old Business

1. No applications to IWWC require review by the Commission.

New Business

1. Mrs. Sterling questioned if the Commission could be more involved in the development of the new Veteran's Building as the facility is in a sensitive watershed area. Sustainable is also involved with the plans. This could be a demonstration site with native plants and riparian buffer enhancements. Mrs. Lemay will contact a member of the committee for updates and information on where the project stands.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk