

Trumbull Nature Commission Virtual Meeting  
Tuesday, March 21, 2023  
7:00 pm

**Present:** Chairman Emily Shufrin, Commissioners Jack Boynton and Olia Yelner

Also Present: Sheryl Baumann and Kevin Malone from TNAC

Absent: Karen Laracca

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Mrs. Shufrin followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by Mr. Boynton to approve the minutes of September 20, 2022. Seconded by Ms. Yelner and approved by unanimous consent. Motion was made by Mr. Boynton to approve the minutes of June 28, 2022. Seconded by Ms. Yelner and approved by unanimous consent.

**Election of Chairman**

Mr. Boynton noted Mrs. Shufrin would be stepping down as Chairman of the Commission. Ms. Yelner nominated Mr. Boynton as Chairman. Seconded by Mr. Boynton and approved by unanimous consent. Mr. Boynton conducted the remainder of the meeting.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**TNAC Q&A**

1. Commission Questions/Comments Regarding Written Director Report – Ms. Baumann previously distributed her TNAC March Report and the Annual Report submitted to the Town (both previously posted with meeting agenda). The Commissioners had no questions and thanked Ms. Baumann for all the work she puts into the Center programs.
2. Updates on the TNAC Building and Grounds – Ms. Baumann noted the Town approved \$75,000 from the ARPA funding for the Center projects that were submitted. At this time, no projects have been started.
  - a. Ms. Baumann spoke with Mr. Estrada regarding the ramp which is deteriorating and rapidly becoming a safety hazard. Long term plans for its replacement are being developed but there is no timetable.
  - b. The grounds are being maintained by the Patrons with volunteer days being planned for the Spring. Invasives are being removed around the pond. A tree fell which has blocked the trail entrance. This has not been resolved.
  - c. If the ramp is not addressed, they will not have ADA access from the front of the building and could impact programs. Several large groups are expected in the next few weeks which could be impacted. Ms. Baumann will reach out to Mr. Estrada again regarding the ramp. It was suggested a picture be sent to him of the ramp to show its

current condition. Mr. Boynton requested to be copied on any future correspondence with the Town regarding the building or grounds.

3. ARPA funding was briefly discussed with regard to spending deadlines. It was unsure when the money would need to be spent.
4. The Town did a good job repairing the retaining wall but the back door repair has not been done.

#### **Old Business**

1. Update on ARPA Funding Status – previously covered under TNAC report.

#### **New Business**

1. Review of TNAC 5-Year Plan Letter – This letter was sent 11/1/2022 to First Selectman Tesoro, Town Council Chair Ashley Gaudiano, Public Works Director George Estrada and Parks & Rec Superintendent Dmitri Paris. Discussion was held regarding division of funding requests between the Town and the Patrons. At this time, First Selectman Tesoro stated TNAC is in the 5-Year Plan. Being a part of the Plan means additional avenues are open for funding. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting to determine what steps need to be taken.
2. Next Meeting – June 20, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

#### **Adjournment**

Motion was made by Mrs. Shufrin to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 pm. Seconded by Ms. Yelner and approved by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall  
Clerk