Trumbull Conservation Commission

TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT

Town Hall
5866 Main Street
Trumbull, Connecticut 06611

Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, April 1, 2026
Long Hill Conference Room – Trumbull Town Hall
7:00 pm

Present: Dean Lindsey, Tim Coughlin, John Massari, Mark Schroeder and Alex Rydelek

Also Present: Janet Epstein and Christine Dobi

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Mr. Coughlin.

Past Minutes
Mr. Schroeder motioned to approve the minutes of January 28, 2026; seconded by Mr. Lindsey. Approved with one abstention from Mr. Rydelek.

Mr. Coughlin introduced Alex Rydelek as a new Commissioner. Mr. Rydelek noted he is an employee of Bartlett Tree Service and is working towards obtaining his arborist license. Mr. Coughlin explained some of the initiatives the Commission has undertaken such as a participant at the Farmers Market, Vine Team, working with Parks for tree planting in the parks, attending conferences relative to conservation, working with the State Forester on a Management Plan for the Tashua Tree Farm and working on another initiative to survey Beach Memorial Park. The Commission is always looking for projects that are of interest to the Commission and the community.

New Business

1. Spring Pollinator Give Away – Mr. Lindsey noted he was in contact with Ms. Lang, Sustainable Trumbull, regarding a plant sale for this Spring. He explained the program held last year was a native plant sale in conjunction with Sustainable Trumbull. Participants received a Pollinator Pathway plaque, agreeing they would not use pesticides on their property, in addition to their purchases. Funding for the program came from a grant to the Conservation Commission. The Commission is required to vote on any expenditures from that grant. **Mr. Lindsey motioned to approve $2,500 for the Spring Pollinator Give Away from the funds in the National Pollinator**

budget; seconded by Mr. Schroeder. Discussion was held regarding the amount and the need for clarification of the accounting process and payment to the vendor. **Mr. Lindsey amended his motion to approve $3,000; seconded by Mr. Schroeder. Approved unanimously.** Mr. Coughlin will contact Donna from Pollinator Pathway regarding the process and usage of the remainder of the funds. Mr. Lindsey will contact Ms. Lang regarding the Commission's approval of the funds and the possibility of a fall program, if it is too late for spring.

2. Mr. Lindsey noted he spoke to Mary Ellen Lemay regarding the Miyawaki Method of planting trees. This is a method of intense planting of multiple species in a tight proximity to start a forest. This is currently being done in Bridgeport to create more green spaces. Mrs. Lemay agreed to present a program on this method that could be done in conjunction with the Conservation Commission speaking of their initiatives and some information on the Aspetuck Land Trust. Mr. Lindsey will contact Mrs. Lemay for further program discussion and date.
3. Mr. Coughlin spoke about the CT Native Tree, Shrub and Perennial Availability List. Connecticut Native Tree, Shrub, and Perennial Availability List. This is from the University of Connecticut Extension Services naming nurseries that provide these plants.
4. Commission members have been invited to attend the Earth Day celebration with the Parks Department and CT DEP on Friday, April 24. It is an Arbor Day celebration. The trees being planted at Tashua Knolls were provided by the Commission through its tree planting program. All information is on the Parks Department website.
5. Mr. Schroeder noted the Commission is set for the Farmers Markets on June 18 and September 24. He spoke on participating last year handing out brochures, providing an opportunity for volunteers to sign up to work on initiatives, raffled off two shrubs, developed a scavenger hunt for the kids. Mrs. Dobi assisted in the program.
6. Mr. Coughlin spoke with Dmitri Paris regarding planting trees in the right of way along public roads. He noted this is a difficult process that requires labor and time to keep the trees thriving. They are working to develop a process but nothing in the short-term. Mr. Coughlin did speak about the possibility of starting a tree nursery at the Community Gardens in Nichols that was recently renovated. It would encourage community involvement, water is available on site and it is Town property. When trees are 2-3 feet tall, they could be used for various events.
7. Mr. Massari noted the budget presentation for next year went well. Request is much the same with a $750 request for tools for the Vine Team and additional resources for conferences.
8. Mr. Coughlin reached out to Kate Donahue from TCTV to discuss possibilities of programs on the site. The General Manager indicated they are able to provide coverage of programs; need to let them know in advance for scheduling purposes.

Old Business

1. Discussion was held regarding the Old Tashua Tree farm property. Mr. Paris has been contacted regarding what the Commission would like to accomplish. At this time, permission has been given to work on the property, primarily to remove vines choking the trees and invasives. Future restoration could include a new gate and natural pathways. Inclusion of volunteer groups would be helpful including students need who need volunteer hours.

Janet Epstein, 76 Old Dike Road – noted New York City has been experimenting with goats to remove invasives; may not be a practical application in this instance but they are very effective.

Mr. Massari will verify a permission letter has been sent to the State Forester so that he can survey Beach Memorial Park. Mr. Coughlin will reach out for a site walk date.

2. Website Information – no discussion.
3. Budget Meeting Update – previously discussed.
4. Vine Team Update – Mr. Lindsey noted the dates during the winter had weather events that cancelled them. Scheduled a spring event on April 18 from 9:00-11:00 am. Information will be distributed and published. Mr. Lindsey suggested setting a regular schedule in the future. The Nature Center has requested the Vine Team address their property. It was suggested the May date could be at the Center. Programs offered at the Center were discussed.
5. Review and Discussion of IWWC Applications – nothing notable in the information sent for this month. Ms. Epstein noted there is a concern with Application 2543 for 201 Old Dike Road. Discussion was held about this property where work was done without a permit and restoration is being required.
6. Arbor Day Activity – previously discussed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Schroeder motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm; seconded by Mr. Lindsey. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk