TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT

Town Hall
5866 Main Street
Trumbull, Connecticut 06611

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

Present: Tim Coughlin, Sara Laden, Kate Giannelli, Alex Rydelek, John Massari, Mark Schroeder

Absent: Dean Lindsey

Also Present: Guest Speaker Holly Kocet from the Newtown Conservation Commission, Janet Epstein, Richard White and Christine Dobi

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mr. Coughlin.

Guest Presentation
Holly Kocet from the Newtown Conservation Commission presented information on rodenticides and Newtown's recent policy banning their use on municipal properties. They are reaching out to other Commissions to provide education and to generate interest in banning their use in their respective towns. She noted the State legislature passed a very weak bill this session but her group intends to advocate for a stronger bill in the next legislative session starting in January. Highlights of her presentation included:

1. Rodenticides are anticoagulants that take hours to days to kill the targeted animal.
2. These targeted animals are eaten by other animals which, in turn, are poisoned.
3. There is no safe way to apply rodenticides that will not harm children, pets or wildlife.
4. EPA removed rodenticides from the shelf in 2014; in 2015 pest control companies started to use second generation rodenticides and bait boxes as a preventative measure.
5. There is no data indicating this method reduces the rodent population but there is evidence that it increases the population with use.
6. Rodenticides are counter-productive and not a long term solution.
7. Other methods of control include sanitation, exclusion and fertility control products.
8. The Commission is trying to get pest control companies to remove them from their tool box and use non-toxic methods.
9. Encouraged the Trumbull Conservation Commission to consider a similar policy for the Town.
10. Through their research, they worked with several organizations, town departments, their First Selectman and others to develop the policy.

Ms. Kocet will be in contact in January with updates.

Past Minutes

Mr. Schroeder motioned to approve the minutes of May 27, 2026; seconded by Mr. Massari. Correction was made on Page 1, New Business #1 – fourth line should read – "She noted the DEEP is hiring…" **Minutes were approved as amended.**

New Business

1. Janet Epstein, 76 Old Dike Road – requested the Commission consider the conservation impact of fireworks on wildlife and watercourses noting several sources indicate adverse effects. The Commission will research information; Ms. Epstein will forward pertinent information she found. Topic will be placed on the August agenda.
2. Mr. Coughlin updated the Commission on the Farmers Market on June 18. The Commission raffled off three trees – white oak, red oak and witch hazel – all native to CT. The possibility of doing a small tree giveaway was discussed and being considered. Mr. Coughlin will contact other locations regarding their process. Next Farmers Market date for the Commission is September 24. Ms. Laden will contact Mrs. Katske regarding how to proceed with funding. Giveaway discussion will continue at the meeting in August.

Old Business

1. Fall Presentation – no further update. Mr. Lindsey is working with the Library on a date.
2. State Forester Evaluation of Open Spaces – Mr. Schroeder noted Dave Beers evaluated areas of Beaches Memorial Park with members of the Commission. The Forester noted the devastation of the beech trees and the lack of an understory due to the over browsing of deer. Looking at the health of the canopy and questioned if any forestry programs are in place. Additional areas will be evaluated and a report sent to the Commission with his findings.
3. Website Information – Ms. Giannelli noted tick information was posted. Mr. Schroeder motioned to post Holly Kocek's presentation information on rodenticides; seconded by Ms. Giannelli and approved. Statistics on Facebook and website visits were discussed.
4. Vine Team Update – work was done at the Nature Center; event went well with many volunteers. Next event will be held in the fall. It was noted the Center could use an update with additional classroom space; many programs are conducted off site for this reason. Strategy for vine removal was discussed.
5. Farmers Market Participation – June 18 – Mr. Schroeder noted there was a good turnout and the scavenger hunt and raffles were a hit. Participants were interested in the Commission's role; might be worth some type of banner to address the activities of the Commission.
6. Public Act No 26-61 – Riparian Areas – no additional information; unknown if DEEP will be reaching out to the towns with information. Mr. Massari will reach out to them for information.
7. Review and Discussion of IWWC Applications – no updates. Brief discussion held on Plum Tree Lane.

Public Comment

Richard White, 169 Church Hill Road -encouraged the Commission to keep the resource inventory up-to-date. Discussed the proposed AI data center in the Trumbull Industrial Park off Route 8. The Town Council and Planning and Zoning have been requested to set a Public Hearing on the proposed center with experts from UI regarding energy consumption; Aquarion/PURA regarding water consumption; WPCA regarding the sewer out flow of the water; economic benefit to the Town and health and noise concerns. No information has been received regarding this request; petition is being circulated requesting a meeting soon. Currently, a one-year moratorium is being requested in order for the Town to make an informed decision. The Town has already signed a host municipality agreement with the

property owner regarding property taxes.

Next Meeting
August 26, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment
There being no further business, Mr. Schroeder motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:13pm; seconded by Ms. Giannelli. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk