TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT

Town Hall
5866 Main Street
Trumbull, Connecticut 06611

Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, August 26, 2026
7:00 pm
Long Hill Conference Room, Town Hall

Present: Tim Coughlin, Sara Laden, Kate Giannelli, Alex Rydelek, Dean Lindsey and Mark Schroeder

Absent: John Massari

Also Present: Christine Dobi and Janet Epstein

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

Past Minutes
Mr. Schroeder motioned to approve the minutes of July 1, 2026; seconded by Ms. Giannelli. Minutes were approved with one abstention from Mr. Lindsey.

New Business
Mr. Coughlin discussed a Trumbull Tree Give Away for Spring 2027 that would involve providing trees to homeowners to plant on their properties. To date, the trees planted have been on Town property. The details could mirror a program in Milford that is very popular with the residents but on a smaller scale. The Milford program works with more funding and provides approximately 500 trees annually to residents. Orders would be taken in advance from a selected list of trees. The Commissioners felt this was a great idea to advance the Trumbull tree program. Mr. Coughlin will reach out to his sources for interest in providing trees and pricing. He will also provide a description to the First Selectman on the program details for further discussion. Topic could be included in the presentation being proposed for 2027.

Old Business
1. Fall Presentation – Mr. Lindsey felt the program should be held in late winter/early spring as he has been unable to verify certain details with speakers and room availability.
2. State Forester Evaluation of Open Spaces – Mr. Schroeder reviewed the report from the Forester for Beeches Park that noted native trees and invasives, the location of two charcoal pits and indicated the remaining beech trees will eventually be subjected to disease. Recommendations included:
    a. Contacting a private forester for a forest stewardship plan.
    b. Property boundaries should be established; nothing is marked.

c. Cutting hanging vines from the trees
d. Poor under story; provide an archery hunting program to diminish the deer population.
e. Provide trail maintenance; erosion control; cleaning of culverts.

Mr. Schroeder will look into a forester management plan. State Forester report will be forwarded to Mr. Paris for review. Discussion was held regarding available grants for various programs/land management. Mr. Coughlin will speak with Mrs. Katske and Ms. Bakalar on possible avenues of funding.

3. Vine Team – Mr. Lindsey indicated the next outing will be September 19 at the Nature Center. He suggested additional programs in October and November. Locations suggested include Katz Pond near the new Veterans Center, Beeches Park and a return to previously addressed areas. Information on the programs can be found on the Conservation website, Facebook and various other social media platforms. Questions can be directed to vineteamtrumbull@gmail.com.
4. Website Information – Ms. Giannelli will post the Vine Team information and the Forester's report on the website and on Facebook.
5. Farmers Market Participation – Mr. Schroeder noted the next date is September 24.
6. Public Act No 26-61 – Riparian Areas – no further information.
7. Conservation Impact of Fireworks – Mr. Coughlin reviewed various articles and all indicated a negative impact. Ms. Giannelli will review articles and provide information/links on the website.
8. AI Data Center Status – Discussion held on the data center currently being updated in Town. Updates include a closed loop water system, no expansion of the footprint, no electrical increase, modernization for more efficiency; demolition of one building not to be replaced. Center has been in Trumbull for approximately 50 years. A petition with 1,400 signatures has been sent to Planning and Zoning requesting a public hearing. Any resident can address the project at a P&Z meeting each month under Public Comment.
9. Review and Discussion of IWWC Applications – no updates.

Ms. Laden addressed a situation where a large tree located near a lake on private property was removed without following regulations or receiving permission. Discussion was held regarding the steps to take when removing a tree in a restricted area per Town regulations.

Ms. Giannelli will work on a mock-up for the tree give-away in the Spring for review.

Mr. Coughlin reviewed several professional programs being held including the UCONN Extension Symposium program discussing invasive plants. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) provides research information on various topics; typically held in the Spring. Any Commissioner interested in any programs should contact him for information.

Discussion was held regarding the portable toilet in Old Mine Park that was dislodged during the recent flooding in the area and was found in the Pequonnock River. Mr. Rydelek indicated he emailed Parks and Rec to address the problem. They were aware of the situation but the unit in question has been put back in the same location. He will address this again requesting a location be determined outside of the flood zone to prevent future contamination.

Next Meeting
September 23, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Crandall
Clerk