

Trumbull Nature Commission Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, September 20, 2022
7:30 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 7:33 pm by Mrs. Shufrin followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Approval of Minutes

A quorum of Commissioners was not present at this time. Minutes of June 28, 2022 will be placed on the next meeting's agenda for approval. One correction noted, Mr. Boynton was not in attendance at the June 22 meeting as indicated.

TNAC Director's Report

Mrs. Baumann shared her report with the Commissioners (previously distributed and posted on website with agenda) noting the following:

1. Mr. Boynton and Mrs. Baumann attended the joint Board of Finance/Town Council meeting held at Trumbull High School. She presented on behalf of the Nature Commission and the Patrons of the Trumbull Nature and Arts Center providing photos of the property in the areas of concern and included in the list of possible funding opportunities. The public has been invited to send in their recommendations for possible projects with the next public meeting being held on October 22, 2022. It is unknown when any decisions will be made for allocation of funds.
2. Replacement of signs on the property has started. The gardens have flourished and educational signs have been added to them.
3. Over 500 participants in Lighthouse camps during July and August.
4. Henkle, Unilever and Good Will continue to volunteer by cleaning the property and doing small projects. Students from Sacred Heart University came on September 19 to clear trails.
5. Fundraising includes the receipt of the second \$75,000 grant allocation from the Department of Economic and Community Development Office, the State's Youth Services Prevention grant for \$35,000 has been approved but not received and a \$10,000 grant from Henkle was approved. They will launch, in the Spring, the East End Science Adventure Program with the funding. Henkle will also provide funding for some in-school field trips.
6. They are working with other organizations/departments on future field trips. Field trips and programs are listed in the report.
7. Inclusion in the Five Year Plan of Conservation and Development would help with strategic planning moving forward.

Old Business

Additional discussion was held regarding the ARPA funding. Mr. Boynton noted all the projects presented were deserving of funding. TNAC was the only presenter who provided visuals for the proposed projects. The funds need to be awarded by December 2023 and spent by 2026.

New Business

1. Town of Trumbull Five Year Plan – discussion was held regarding the next steps. A meeting was held earlier in the year with First Selectman Tesoro who recommended a letter of intent be sent asking for inclusion in the Plan. Mr. Boynton noted the Commission should develop a specific, prioritized list of projects to be included. This would allow the TNAC to plan for the future and work with town departments on projects. It was unknown how the ARPA funding would influence any of these requests. Ms. Yelner will draft a letter of intent to the First Selectman for review.
2. Next Meeting – December 13, 2022.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Ms. Yelner to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 pm. Seconded by Mr. Boynton and approved by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk