

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT**



Trumbull Conservation Commission Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, October 26, 2022
7:00 pm

Present: Chairman Mary Ellen Lemay, Commissioners Matthew Sulzicki, Sara Sterling, Richard Post and Tim Coughlin

Absent: John Massari and Pam Roman

Also Present: Mary Isaac, Town Council and Pinewood Lake Residents Janet Epstein, Jeff Shake, Donna Seidell and Louise Perkins

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lemay at 7:10 pm.

Past Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Post to approve the minutes of August 31, 2022 as written. Seconded by Mr. Coughlin and approved by unanimous consent.

Review of the Town Survey Presentations

Mrs. Sterling reported she presented the survey results to Economic Development, George Estrada, Dimitri Paris, the Engineering Department and Parks and Recreation. She felt they were good meetings and that the groups were engaged with the survey results within their particular areas. Some discussion items included:

1. It was a good comparison of what the town residents want – economic development and conservation.
2. Trumbull POCD should be considered when moving forward with initiatives.
3. A slight adjustment was made to the survey results by removing entries from people who only worked in Trumbull. Results were the same.
4. A request for help was made to update the Steep Slope Change to 15% grade restriction on vegetation removal. It was recommended to have ways for mitigation in a step approach. POCD recommends 20% grade restriction. Although there are not many parcels of land available for development, this is a clear cut regulation that needs to be tightened within the zoning regulations for any future applications. It was noted this type of activity may result in contaminants in the water system.

5. Mrs. Lemay discussed the Natural Resource Inventory that covers the open spaces and town parcels. The Commission would like this document used as reference for all applications. It also identified areas that needed attention. Mrs. Sterling, after speaking with Mr. Paris, noted he would like to review any information gleaned from the document before it is sent to residents. He is willing to use his sources for dissemination of material and suggested the possibility of a once a month blast. This could be done through Facebook, emails or on their website. Mr. Sulzicki noted he made an Instagram for the Conservation Commission to help with dissemination. Mrs. Sterling and Mr. Sulzicki agreed to work on outreach to the residents. It is hoped this outreach will increase interest and appreciation of the parks.

A Thousand Trees for Trumbull with Sustainable Trumbull Team

Mrs. Lemay noted this initiative, on a smaller scale, was started many years ago with a Tree Committee. A meeting was held with individuals from Fairfield to discuss their tree replacement plan and its implementation that was very productive. Mr. Coughlin will be leading Trumbull's committee with the help of Public Works and the Parks Department. Implementation will begin in the spring. Some specifics of the initiative discussed included:

1. Planting locations have not been decided but it was felt they should start on Town property.
2. Location of actual planting of the trees on the selected properties – town right-of-way, commercial or private property - still needs to be addressed.
3. Need to devise a plan for the town with involvement from Public Works, the Tree Warden and Parks Superintendent.
4. Mr. Paris is helping with the plan which will utilize systems already in place in the town.
5. One year after care must be considered and should be a part of the landscaping contract.
6. Fairfield's plan involves the residents who can request a tree be planted on their property at a cost of \$200. They agree to water and maintain the tree.
7. The State will not allow any trees to be planted on State roads in town.

Mrs. Isaac discussed funding in place for this tree planting plan noting there is money in the town's operating budget earmarked for trees, grants have been received with a match from Sustainable CT. as well as private donations.

The next step is to form the committee and develop a plan. Legacy trees were discussed. Mrs. Lemay noted at this point there is no formal group to address them but a Forestry Committee would be able to take this under their scope.

Discussion was held regarding the "Right Tree - Right Place" approach. This will eliminate future problems.

Old Business

P&Z Regulations Status

1. Steep Slope – still pending; needs remediation opportunity. This will protect steep slopes and make sure the applications are being addressed by the appropriate land use boards.
2. Discussion was held regarding the classification of wetlands and the current regulations.
3. Native Plant Ordinance is under consideration by Planning and Zoning. Mrs. Lemay noted the rain garden near ECCO, by the Long Hill Green, will be replanted with pollinators and native plants by the Conservation Commission and Sustainable Trumbull. Mrs. Roman, a Master Gardener, is working on the plan.

IWWC Applications

Several residents from the Pine Wood Lake area were present to discuss an application currently with the IWWC to develop two properties. Janet Epstein, 76 Old Dike Road; Jeff Shake, 375 Booth Hill Road, Donna Seidell, 182 Old Dike Road and Louise Perkins, 58 Old Dike Road discussed their concerns with this development specifically noting the filling in of the wetlands and the consequences of such a practice to the surrounding properties. The group asked the Conservation Commission to recommend the rejection of the application based on the wetland regulations currently in place. Mrs. Lemay noted the Conservation Commission has already sent a three page letter to the IWWC regarding this application recommending that it not be approved. The Commission will continue to follow this application as it is reviewed.

New Business

1. The Trumbull Center zone change is pending.
2. The property being considered for the new Senior Center on Hardy Lane is pending due to review of soil and traffic studies. Mrs. Lemay noted she requested the architects for the project attend the Conservation Commission meeting in November to discuss their plans.

Next Meeting

November 30, 2022 at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk