Present:
Trumbull Conservation Commission

TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT

Town Hall
5866 Main Street
Trumbull, Connecticut 06611

Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, October 28, 2026
7:00 pm
Long Hill Conference Room, Town Hall

Present: Tim Coughlin, Kate Giannelli, John Massari, Dean Lindsey, Mark Schroeder and Sara Laden

Absent: Alex Rydelek

Also Present: Janet Epstein

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Mr. Coughlin.

Past Minutes
Mr. Schroeder motioned to approve the minutes of September 30, 2026; seconded by Mr. Massari. Minutes were approved with abstentions from Ms. Giannelli and Mr. Coughlin.

New Business

1. Mr. Lindsey spoke on the October 19, 2026 meeting of Sustainable Trumbull. He noted the various recycling programs they have or are implementing such as textile bins, holiday lights collection, free tire disposable program, costume swap for Halloween. They are also considering offering a repair café with individuals who are skilled in small repairs such as bikes and other small items. They continue to sponsor the seed library and food rescue in the schools. They are being recognized with an award by Sustainable CT.
2. The First Selectman's Invitation to the Boards and Commission's dinner was discussed. This event is scheduled for November 16.
3. Mr. Lindsey presented a pamphlet on the Manresa Miles Project at the former power plant in Norwalk. The goal is to turn the land into a nature center. It is not open yet but, through the website, you can sign up for a tour. It is approximately 200 acres with plans for an environmental center in the building on site.

Janet Epstein, 76 Old Dyke Road, noted Mari Jackson is the Town's Recycling Coordinator. Sustainable Trumbull has been elevated because of her efforts.

4. Hazardous Waste Day was held recently.
5. Ms. Giannelli noted an email was received on the Conservation Commission site regarding a businessowner of a dog walking business who wants to develop a spot, similar to the little lending libraries, only related to dogs. This email will be forward to the Parks and Recreation Department as it would fall under their regulations.
6. Mr. Coughlin is beginning to scout areas for tree planting in the Spring.
7. Discussion was held regarding the CACIWIC conference on November 14. Funds are available for the registration fee.
8. Mr. Coughlin received an email from an individual looking for volunteer hours.

Old Business

1. Vine Team – Mr. Lindey noted they had a good outing at the Nature Center. He conducted a walk through with Kevin Malone and suggested he contact the State Forester for recommendations for a management plan. Future events at Twin Books were discussed. A management plan needs to be developed by the Town through a private forester to address invasives, deer control, canopy management. Mr. Schroeder will continue to work on gathering information from a private forestry service. Additional discussion was held regarding grant funding, budget requests, future steps. Mr. Coughlin will discuss with Mr. Paris the possibility of a container that could be filled with cut material and picked up by Parks for disposal. Next event date has not been determined.
2. Trumbull Tree Giveaway – Mr. Coughlin is working out the details and using Milford's program as a guide. The program will be discussed with the First Selectman when details are confirmed. This could be a part of the Spring Program.
3. Farmer's Market went well. Many individuals were interested in the Conservation Commission's mission, its role and general information.
4. Forester Management Plan – Mr. Schroeder will continue to research private foresters to address a plan.
5. Grant Funding Opportunities – Mr. Coughlin will continue to research. The State has hired a grant writer. All grant applications for the Town must go through Ms. Bakalar.
6. Discussion was held regarding the Aspetuck Land Trust and the acquisition of Trumbull properties. Mr. Coughlin sent inquires to the Town Hall regarding this topic. Further discussion was held regarding their preservation and management programs.
7. Spring Program – Mr. Lindsey discussed the program concept which would be scheduled for early Spring. Topics and speakers need to be determined - tree planting, tree care, meadows, pollinators, Master Gardener topics. Mr. Lindsey will reach out to speakers and the Nature Center to host.
8. Tree Management Regulations – Ms. Laden will reach out after elections to the representatives and the Environmental Committee at the State.
9. Review and Discussion of IWWC Applications – nothing for discussion. Areas of concern include notification to the public regarding public hearings on applications and the Commission's role with regard to IWWC. Circulation of the "Lake Letter" was discussed. Last distribution was 2023.
10. Need to have a high school connection for volunteers for community service hours.
11. Ms. Giannelli will provide a mock-up of a tree program that could be presented to the Town for discussion.

Next Meeting

November 18, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment
There being no further business, Mr. Schroeder motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 pm; seconded by Mr. Lindsey. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk