

Trumbull Nature Commission Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, December 19, 2023
7:00 pm

Present: Chairman Jack Boynton, Emily Shufrin and Karen Laracca (entered at 7:09 pm)

Also Present: Sheryl Baumann and Kevin Malone from TNAC

Absent: Olia Yelner

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Mr. Boynton followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the September 19, 2023 meeting minutes was tabled to the next meeting.

TNAC Director's Report

Ms. Baumann shared her report with the Commissioners (attached to the minutes) noting the following:

1. TNAC has been included in the Town's Five-Year Plan. The \$25,000 request, put forth by Mr. Estrada for a design project at the Center, was removed by the Board of Finance although they noted the project was worthy to be funded, just not bonded. The Town Council will be the next step and it is hoped the funds will be approved in the one year budget.
2. The Center had more participants in 2023 than in any prior years.
3. Both Henkel and Unilever had community action days. Multiple projects were completed.
4. All projects requested through the ARPA funds were completed.

Mrs. Laracca entered the meeting at 7:09 pm.

5. The compost area was replaced by the Eagle Scouts.
6. Grants were received from the Horizons Foundation and Henkel Corporation. Mr. Malone noted the Henkel grant will fund sustainable STEM training for Trumbull and Bridgeport middle and high school students. They will develop sustainable plans for each town. Currently, they are looking for mentors for a start date in the spring or fall of 2024.
7. Invoices are being submitted to CT DEP for a portion of the \$35,000 grant. Requirements include letting them know what the funds were spent on and submitting receipts.

Mr. Boynton stated the updates on the building were exciting. Discussion was held regarding the requested \$25,000. It was noted there are several options for improvements to the building but they are especially looking for ADA compliant bathrooms and space for 100 people. Mr. Estrada is looking for the Nature Commission and TNAC to provide input. If the funding is approved, they could look for additional funding through grants.

Mr. Boynton questioned if the pest problem had been addressed. Ms. Baumann noted the situation was no worse and that the building and garage had been cleaned.

Ms. Baumann noted all new locks have been installed except for the garage. She also noted she is the contact person if any problems arise instead of a commissioner.

Old Business

1. Update on ARPA Funded Projects – previously discussed.

New Business

1. Commissioner terms were discussed. Mr. Boynton encouraged the other members of the Commission to contact the First Selectman to be reappointed.
2. The meeting dates for 2024 were approved.
3. Next meeting will be held by ZOOM on March 19, 2024.
4. TNAC Annual Meeting will be held January 27, 2024 at 11:00 am. All Commissioners are invited to attend.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Mrs. Shufrin to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm. Seconded by Ms. Laracca and approved by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk

Patrons of the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 110438, Trumbull, CT 06611

Street Address: 7115 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611

Subject: Report to Nature Commission: December 2023

TNAC Building and Grounds

- Building
 - o The building's roof has been replaced
- Grounds
 - o The compost area was replaced by Eagle Scout Thomas Ou
 - o The Patrons re-landscaped the area in front of the ramp and planted native winterberry bushes
 - See photos on page 4

Town of Trumbull

- Project approval process:
 - o 11-27-23 Town Council approved George Estrada's \$25,000 request (per his submitted Facilities request for CY 2024 *(see form on page 3)*)
 - o 12-14-23 Board of Finance meeting
 - The Board made the decision to remove some projects from bonding consideration that they felt did not fit the parameters to be bonded for 20 years. These included smaller projects, including the TNAC building design. The Board felt that all the projects should be funded, but not by bonding. They said that some of the projects could be paid for by "supplemental appropriation". Projects funded by supplemental appropriation need to be completed by August 31st of the same year. If not complete, the department must ask for additional time/funding.
 - o Next step is the January 4, 2024 Town Council meeting in which the Council meets to approve a one-year funding plan. It will be up to this newly elected Town Council to determine whether or not the TNAC design project will be funded in CY2024.

Corporate and Community Partnerships

- Henkel Corporation held a volunteer day on October 12
 - o Front Garden: Raked and dug out weeds and old mulch. Spread loam and new mulch. Planted native winterberry shrubs
 - o Replaced tires on six wheelbarrows
 - o Cleaned and installed information kiosk in front garden
 - o Adjusted interior and exterior doors to improve functionality
 - o Cleared weeded areas in and around playground
 - o Repaired cement wall at playground
 - o Posted "Hiking Day" children's book pages around trail loop for TNAC Trail Tales program
- Unilever held an employee volunteer day on October 19
 - o Raked the maple tree leaves from around our picnic table seating area
 - o Assembled two shelving units which will store children's boots and equipment
 - o Cleared out the sunflower garden for the end of the season
 - o Weeded and cleaned-up around the building and outdoor chalkboard
 - o Brought all debris to our composting area
 - o

- Goodwill
 - o Goodwill program participants continue to volunteer weekly with assembly projects and light cleaning
- TNAC had a craft table at the Trumbull Arts Festival and Trumbull Fall Festival
- TNAC had a plant investigation table at the Green Village Initiative Harvest Festival in Bridgeport

Fundraising

- The Patrons were awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Horizon Foundation for
 - o General operations
- The Patrons were awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Henkel Corporation for:
 - o Sustainable STEM Training for Trumbull and Bridgeport middle and high school students
 - o Science Adventure Trail
- The Patrons were awarded with a \$1,200 grant from the Henkel Corporation for:
 - o Supplies for October 12, 2023 Henkel employee volunteer day

Environmental Education Programs

- School day and Summer Programs
 - o January – December 2023, TNAC provided programs to 4,184 students
- Seasonal, Private Events, Birthday Parties
 - o January – December 2023, TNAC provided programs to 1,011 participants
- Scout Programs
 - o January – December 2023, TNAC provided programs to 30 scout participants
- Grand Total: 5,225 program participants (10% increase over 2022)
 - o Note: Plus 518 impressions over 34 program dates for after school programs

Upcoming 2024 Seasonal Programs (tentative schedule)

- Sunday, February 25: TCW/Sustainable Trumbull Recycling Program
- Saturday, March 2: Maple Sugaring (2 sessions)
- Sunday, March 17: St. Patrick's Day (2 sessions)
- Saturday, April 6: Hiking & Backpacking 101
- Saturday, May 11 Fishing 101
- Saturday, April 20 or Sunday, April 28
- Saturday, April 27: TCW Semi-annual shredding
- Saturday, May 4: Make a Healthy Hummingbird Feeder
- Saturday, June 1: CT Trails Day
- Saturday, June 8 Intro to Archery
- Saturday, June 22 Science Adventure Trail
- Saturday, June 29 Science Adventure Trail

Submitted by:

Sheryl Baumann

Director

Patrons of the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center

Phone: 203-452-4421

Email: sbaumann@trumbullnatureandartscenter.org

(See Next Pages)

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
REQUEST FOR PROJECTS**

DEPARTMENT

Facilities

Provide narrative to describe and justify the requested project and answer the following questions as applicable.

Trumbull Nature and Arts Center (TNAC) has had several improvements support through ARPA in 2023. Improvements include Removal of old retaining wall and regrading, replacement of main entrance ADA ramp, replacement of rear garage door access and new roof installation. Interior reconfiguration to allow for expanded programming is necessary as well as ADA access.

What existing facilities or conditions will be affected by the project? How will this project improve these?

Interior renovations will require a phased approach begin inning with design and master planning.

Will this project necessitate staffing increases?

No

What is the general plan and timeline for completion?

Summer 2024

Are there any outside funding sources, e.g., grants?

None at this time.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	CALENDAR YEAR FUNDING					TOTAL
	CY 2024	CY 2025	CY 2026	CY 2027	CY 2028	
Design and Construction	25,000	100,000				\$ -
						\$125,000.00
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -

JUSTIFY NEED FOR CAPITAL OUTLAY (Attach relevant documentation for your request. Insufficiently documented requests WILL NOT be considered for the plan.)



Trumbull Nature Commission Meetings for 2024

March 19, 2024

June 18, 2024

September 17, 2024

December 17, 2024