

Trumbull Nature Commission – September 21, 2016

Trumbull Nature Commission
Wednesday, September 21, 2016
6:30 pm
Long Hill Conference Room

Present: Chairman, Nancy Gottschalk; Vice-Chairman Barbara Pezzullo, Commissioners Nancy Wentworth and Jeffrey Kunkel

Also Present: TNAC Board Chair Kevin Malone

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chairman Gottschalk followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Past Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Kunkel to approve the minutes of June 15, 2016 as written. Seconded by Mrs. Wentworth and approved unanimously.

Report from Board of Directors of TNAC

Mr. Malone distributed and briefly reviewed his September report to the Commission. He noted that Sheryl Baumann resigned from the Board of Directors and was hired as the Patrons' Part Time Consulting Director; job duties did not change.

The Fall Program Schedule was also distributed which included Field Trip information.

Mr. Kunkel noted he is called when the alarm goes off in the Nature Center or the rangers call him if there are groups on the property and the rangers have a question. He requested a list of individuals/groups using the facility so that he will know if they should be at the Center or not. Mr. Malone noted he is meeting with the rangers to discuss this. Mr. Malone also noted it is necessary to have a Nature Commission member on the list in the event there is a problem.

Mr. Malone noted the alarm system is working well and that the phone is now connected to the Town voice mail system.

Old Business

1. Discussion and Preparation of Policies – Mr. Malone presented to the Commission a draft acknowledgement form for use of the Center as well as a request for use form. This document would be for prospective groups who want to use the facility whether inside or out. Lengthy

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discussion was held with changes/suggestions made to the document. Mrs. Gottschalk distributed other documentation and suggestions submitted by the Commissioners over the summer with regard to proposed policies. These were reviewed and discussed. It was agreed that Mr. Malone would take these suggestions and incorporate them into his document, if appropriate, and then the information would be submitted to Mrs. Arnow for review. It was felt by the Commission that some of the policies and procedures would need to be written by the town as the Nature Center is a town building.

2. Meeting Dates for Fiscal Year – a review of the remaining meeting dates was conducted. It was agreed to keep the October 19, 2016 date for a review of policies and the January 18, 2017 date. The Commission agreed to move the April 19, 2017 date to May 17, 2017. Meetings will begin at 6:30 pm.

New Business

Mrs. Gottschalk brought to the Commission a letter sent to the First Selectman and all Trumbull Boards and Commission regarding FOI issues, particularly Executive Sessions. The Commission acknowledged the letter and stated they have not violated any FOI regulations with regard to Executive Sessions.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Mrs. Pezzullo to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm. Seconded by Mrs. Wentworth and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk

These minutes are considered a draft until approved at the next meeting of the Nature Commission.

September 2016 Report to Trumbull Nature Commission



Building and Grounds

Assistance needed from Town for the following projects:

Priority 1

- Remove fallen tree near pond

Priority 2

- Remove broken glass from basement window
- Replace gutters (previous gutters were removed and scrapped)
- Remove more junk from basement and attic
- Remove trash dumpster – wait until junk is removed from building

Note: TNAC phone is now part of the Town of Trumbull's voice mail system.

Patrons Board of Directors Update

Sheryl Baumann has resigned from the Board of Directors. Scot Kerr is the new Secretary of the Board. Sheryl Baumann was hired as the Patrons' Part Time Consulting Director. Her duties as Consulting Director now include:

- Operations oversight and management
- Program development, oversight and implementation
- Field trip development, oversight and implementation
- Membership development
- Fundraising
- Volunteer activities
- Building and grounds oversight
- Strategic planning
- Networking
- Recruitment and oversight of contractors
- Reporting on programs, field trips, etc to Board of Directors and Nature Comm.

Fall Programs

Fall programs have been assembled and added to the calendar:

- See attached documentation
- The program flyer and teacher field trip flyer have been approved by the Superintendent's office and have been distributed to every elementary school in Trumbull as well as many Town buildings and retail locations.

Field Trips

The Patrons have worked with Mark Ceneri to adjust TNAC's field trip offerings:

- Pre-K, K and Grade 1 better align with CT Education Core Science Standards
- All program descriptions include curriculum codes. See attached documentation.

Fundraising

The Patrons will initiate an Annual Appeal this fall:

- A letter will be sent to newsletter subscribers, previous contributors, and businesses

Registration as a public charity

- The Patrons of TNAC are now registered with the CT Department of Consumer Protection as an exempt Public Charity (exempt from \$50 yearly fee, because charitable donations are less than \$50,000 per year)

Scouts

- Eagle Scouts have cleared the trails and planted tick resistant plants in the playground
- The Patrons will participate in a Girl Scout rally and host a Naturalist Badge earning day this fall

Building/Grounds Usage – Policies and Procedures

- Lynn Arnow offered to, "assist the Nature Commission with putting together some usage guidelines..."

Volunteers/Donations

- Deloitte Community Action Day in June: 40 volunteers, \$400 in-kind donation
 - o One of their projects was to plant the sunflower garden (see photo)
- Sun Products \$1,000 donation
- Unilever Community Action Day scheduled for October 13
- United Health Care \$482 Donation
- Long Hill Garden Club has revitalized and maintained the butterfly garden
 - o See photo



Sunflower Garden 1



Butterfly Garden 1



FALL 2016 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Visit our website to register:
trumbullnatureandartscenter.org

7115 Main Street, Rte 25, Trumbull, CT 06611 • Phone: (203) 452-4421 • Email: patronsoftnac@gmail.com

Fantastic Fossil Fun! Saturday, October 8



Children will learn how fossils are formed and how to identify them. Plus, they'll touch real specimens and conduct a fossil dig! All registrants will make their own fossil replica, and bring home a real fossil!
 1:00pm - 2:30pm
 Ages 5 - 9
 Cost: \$20 per child
 - parents welcome to stay
 Instructor: M. Dimon

Pumpkins & Leaves Saturday, October 15



Children will create Pumpkin And Leaves Still Life in crayon and watercolor wax resist. Take home a beautiful work of art, perfect for the fall season.
 1:00pm - 3:00pm
 Ages 6 - 12
 Cost: \$20 per child (parent drop-off)
 Instructor: M. Zacchia

Haunted Trails Friday, October 21



Children will experience a scary, fun time as they wander the trails in small groups led by two guides. They will get to visit six different themed stations, and explore cool activities and fun Halloween related crafts. Separate area for younger children. Several volunteers will wander the trails dressed up in costume. Kids will experience a fun night of costumes and scares at the Trumbull Nature and Arts Center Halloween event!
 Organized by the Student Leadership in Environment, Culture and Art Club
 6:00pm - 8:00pm
 Children under age 12
 Cost: Donation \$2 per child, payable at the door

History & Nature Hike Saturday, October 22



Join experienced Trumbull Historical Society and Trumbull Nature & Arts Center hike leaders on a hike through Trumbull's beautiful Beach Memorial Park. Meet at the Trumbull High School Parking lot. Wear comfortable shoes and bring water.
 10:00am - 12:00pm
 All ages, FREE, no registration

Geocaching Sunday, October 23



Join the world's largest treasure hunt! Learn to geocache and go on an outdoor adventure at TNAC! There will be several geocaches to find during this fun family program.
 1:00pm - 3:00pm
 All ages
 Cost: \$10 per family
 Instructor: R. White

Astronomy & Starcraft Friday, November 11



Members of The Astronomical Society of New Haven will be bringing their powerful telescopes, so you can view the stars and planets close-up! We'll also have a fun craft to make and take!
 8:00pm - 10:00pm
 Ages 7+
 Cost: \$10 per family
 Instructor: The Astronomical Society of New Haven

Volcanoes Erupt! Saturday, November 12



Learn all about volcanoes, and what makes their lava flow! Make and bring home your own volcano!
 2:00pm - 3:30pm
 Ages 8 - 12
 Cost: \$20 per child
 - parents welcome to stay
 Instructor: M. Dimon

Gratitude Boxes for Thanksgiving



Saturday, November 19
 Children will make beautiful gifts with miniature water paints, twigs, and glitter, and bundle them into a box, perfect for Thanksgiving
 1:00pm - 3:00pm
 Ages 4 - 12
 Cost: \$20 per child (parent drop-off)
 Instructor: M. Zacchia

Girl Scouts Naturalist Badge Day Saturday, October 22



Girl Scouts: Come to TNAC to earn your Nature Badges! Brownies, Juniors, and Cadettes: Earn your nature badges at the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center!
 Daisies: Petal: Rose
 Brownies: Legacy: Naturalist: Bugs
 Juniors: It's Your Planet: Do it Yourself: Gardener
 Cadettes: Legacy: Naturalist: Trees
 2:00pm - 4:00pm
 Ages: Girl Scouts: Daisies - Cadettes
 Cost: \$15 (includes badges)

Volunteer with TNAC!

Send us an email:
patronsoftnac@gmail.com

Teachers!

Book your science curriculum-based field trips now!

Follow us on
 Facebook



The Trumbull Nature & Arts Center (TNAC) is a non-profit 501(c)(3)



Teachers: Bring your students to TNAC! Fun and educational science and nature field trips!

7115 Main Street, Rte 25, Trumbull, CT 0661 • (203) 452-4421
trumbullnatureandartscenter.org

To schedule a field trip, email: programs@trumbullnatureandartscenter.org



- Field trips align with CT Core Science Curriculum Framework (see curriculum codes in descriptions below)
- Our programs reinforce and supplement classroom learning
- Kids can get messy and hands-on, with no classroom mess
- Affordable programs that can be completed in under 2 hours
- Outdoor time leads to improved classroom behavior, increased student motivation and enthusiasm to learn



Trumbull Nature & Arts Center Field Trip Descriptions:

- **Pre-kindergarten:** Students will go on an adventure hike where they will use their observational skills to discuss the difference between living and non-living things. A hands on activity will engage these young scientists in sorting various objects into groups to help them reinforce the difference and characteristics of living vs. non-living.
CT Core Science Curriculum and Assessment Framework: PK.2.a, COG 1, COG 3, COG 5, P & S 9
- **Kindergarten: Exploration Program:** During an exploration hike students will discuss seasonal variations and plants and animals and how their similarities and differences help us to classify them. Observing various collected and wild specimens will emphasize the difference between living and non-living things. In addition an easy to care for live cricket habitat will be constructed which will go back to the classroom so students can continue learning about the needs of living things. An in-school program (Trumbull schools only) is also available. Email us for details.
CT Core Science Curriculum and Assessment Framework: K.2.a, A4, A5, A6
- **Grade 1: Plants and Insects:** By exploring the various habitats at The Trumbull Nature and Arts Center, participants will see a variety of plants and animals and discuss how they obtain the resources they need for survival based on their unique structures. Students will also construct a living plant experiment to take back to the classroom to better understand plant biology.
CT Core Science Curriculum and Assessment Framework: 1.2.a, 1.2.b, A12, A13, A14
- **Grade 2: Soil Investigation Program:** Students will explore and examine such topics as soil formation, its components and properties. They will participate in 3 fun hands-on field experiments where they will investigate various soil types and even construct a worm farm to take back to the classroom to learn about worms and their interactions with the soil.
CT Core Science Curriculum and Assessment Framework: 2.3.a, 2.3.b, A21, A22
- **Grade 3: Habitat Program:** Students will visit TNAC for a hands-on and interactive experience examining forest, meadow and wetland habitats. They will use critical thinking skills to explore plant and animal adaptations as they relate to these ecosystems. Students will be able to compare and contrast the similarities and differences of various environments. They will use their creativity and imagination to design an original creature that might live in one of these habitats.
CT Core Science Curriculum and Assessment Framework: 3.2.a, B3, B4
- **Grade 4: Plants and Erosion Program:** Students will do a field investigation to identify various plants in the wild. They will learn plant basics such as photosynthesis, growth, and reproduction. Students will learn about the significance of fruits and seeds for the natural world and as they relate to the human food supply. They will also go on an exploration to identify various types of erosion that have shaped the landscape. Through a fun hands-on activity, students will test various erosional forces to determine which ones are most powerful.
CT Core Science Curriculum and Assessment Framework: 4.2.a, B10, B11

The Trumbull Nature and Arts Center (TNAC) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization.

Patrons of the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center, Inc.
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