

TRUMBULL NATURE COMMISSION

Monday, September 19, 2011
Trumbull Nature & Arts Center
6:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

Agenda Items: Call Meeting to Order
Public Comments – 15 Minutes
Acceptance of August minutes
Treasurer’s Report
501c3 and town
Website, marketing & media
Relocation update
Grants
2011 Programs & Events
- Fall/Winter program schedule
- Fall hike
Old Business
New Business
Adjournment

Attending: Commission: Chairman Pam Georgas, Kevin Malone, Bonnie Lindsay, Meg Barnes. Clerk: Sheryl Baumann Guest: Karin King

Meeting called to order at 6:42 p.m.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Minutes Approvals

June, July, and August Minutes were approved as presented. Bonnie moved on the motion, Ruth seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

Treasurer’s Report

Bonnie reviewed July and August balances. Bonnie stated that she needs someone to volunteer to handle the phone. Pam stated that TNAC needs to go to the PTA to seek volunteers.

501c3 and town

A discussion was held regarding the need for 501c3 approval for TNAC’s marketing budget. Kevin stated that there is currently a \$5000 limit to operational & marketing expenditures without approval from the 501c3 board.

Website, marketing and media

Meg Barnes informed the Commission that patronsoftnac.com now has a “paid instructors” wanted banner on its website.

Relocation Update

No discussion held.

Grants

Pam informed the commission that an “Environmental Grassroots Grant” was submitted. Funds from this grant would start an environmental club at Hillcrest Middle School that would serve as a model for other schools to follow. MaryEllen LeMay would head this initiative.

The “Seaman’s Ecochallenge Grant” was discussed. Further discussion may be held with the 501c3.

2011 Programs & Events

Fall program schedule

A discussion was held on the Junior Naturalist Explorers series of programs. There are currently instructors for all of the programs except for Insects and Weather Monitoring. These programs will be held once a month through June 2012. The possibility of a television meteorologist leading the program was mentioned.

Fall Valley Hike

On October 23rd, a TNAC and Trumbull Historical Society hike will be held, beginning at Old Mine Park. The Town is providing senior buses for the return trip to Old Mine. Frank Grazynski of TNAC will help lead the hike. Another leader may be necessary, due to a large number of participants.

Old Business

Meg will be conducting a trough-making class at the TNAC building for the Long Hill Garden Club. If there is enough interest, Meg may hold another class for TNAC.

New Business

Trumbull Arts Festival

A discussion was held regarding TNAC’s participation in the September 18th Trumbull Arts Festival. There were many guesses for the “guess the number of crayons” contest. Entries asked for name, address, email address, and asked if they’d like to volunteer.

Jack-o’-Lantern Pumpkin Carving

Meg informed the commission that she has purchased stickers for young children to decorate pumpkins at this event. This was done because of pumpkin carving safety concerns raised by parents. An email blast will be sent to inform parents.

Christ Church Apple Festival

Christ Church requested that TNAC participate in its Apple Festival which is being held on October 1st and 2nd.

Plasko's Farm

Plasko's Farm requested that TNAC participate in an Autumn event at their location.

Building improvements

Pam informed the commission that she will be meeting with John Marsilio, Trumbull DPW director, to discuss improvements needed to the TNAC building. Requested improvements include: new exit sign, a backdoor added to the back of the building, and removal of the chandelier.

Bow Hunting Safety

Pam informed the commission that the Town approved the DEEP's request to hold a bow hunting safety class on the grounds of the Trumbull Nature and Arts Center. Bonnie made a motion to allow the DEEP to hold a 6 - 8 hour bow hunting safety class on the premises, as long as the DEEP has the proper insurance. Kevin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by Sheryl Baumann, September Meeting Nature Commission Clerk