

Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting  
April 26, 2012  
7:00pm

**Present:** Mary Ellen Lemay, Chairman; Jim Sullivan; Scot Kerr, Don Watson

**Absent:** Joanne Parsons and Dale Parsons

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. Motion made by Don Watson to approve the minutes as written; seconded by Scot Kerr and approved unanimously.

**Old Business**

1. Report on Pequonnock River Watershed Initiative – Don Watson reported that the First Selectman has not signed the agreement; only Bridgeport has signed. Grant money has been lost because the agreement is not complete. Last year, the PRI received three grants – Old Mine Park which has been received and grants for Wolfe Park and Beardsley Zoo which will be received soon. These are all river projects. The Bridgeport Regional Planning Council has taken over this initiative but the First Selectman needs to appoint a representative which should be the individual appointed to replace Steve Savarese.

Don Watson attended a climate change meeting in Bridgeport last week run by the Nature Conservancy noting he would brief the commission regarding this at a future meeting. Don Watson also reported on his work relating to climate change noting that funding issues are becoming more numerous. This is an issue that should be addressed more seriously.

2. Landscape/Tree Ordinance – Mary Ellen Lemay reported there is a meeting with the Tree Study Group next Monday and that the draft is still being revised. Front setbacks remain controversial. It was noted that town setbacks vary from street to street. Discussion regarding town property/trees and resident property/trees was held citing town regulations currently in effect. Don Watson noted that the study group has not agreed on the ordinance with the Conservation Commission. He noted it is important to have the ordinance in a final form with all questions answered before it is brought to the Town Council for approval. The new town planning director needs to be in agreement as well as Planning and Zoning, Dmitri Paris and the tree warden. It was suggested that a letter of approval from P&Z would be beneficial. Mary Ellen noted this ordinance could be on the L&A agenda for May or June. She also noted that because this is an ordinance, there must be a public hearing. It was then suggested that all activity on this project be pushed back until the planning director has been informed. Mary Ellen noted a recycling coordinator has been hired.
3. IWWC Activities – Mary Ellen Lemay stated she would like to meet with them regarding the tree ordinance. It was noted that there will be a P&Z workshop held on 5/16/12 at 7:30pm to discuss the Rails to Trails initiative. Members of the Conservation Commission have been invited to attend. This workshop may encompass several topics. Discussion of the Rails to Trails portion through Trumbull Center was held.

4. Single Stream Recycling – Mary Ellen Lemay noted the Ecology Club at Hillcrest Middle School visited the Resco plant on 5/25 noting that one million gallons of water is used each day to turn the turbines. Discussion of the EcoPark in Bridgeport was held noting there is the possibility of using water from the water treatment plant at Resco in the future. Scot Kerr questioned what Trumbull is going to do with their waste treatment now that the contract with Bridgeport has expired.

Jim Sullivan did a power point presentation to a group regarding the single stream recycling and noted that most people in the group were unaware of the change. It will be very important to get the word out on this topic.

5. GIS – no update.
6. Old Mine Park Riparian Buffer Remediation – Don Watson noted the project has been started. A planting day has been scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers will be needed to help; tools, gloves, boots and plants will be provided. More details will follow after a meeting next Monday. Don noted that Joanne and Dale Parsons should be recognized for the many volunteer hours they have dedicated to this project.

### **New Business**

1. Open Commission Seat – one seat still remains open. Dan Nelson has been contacted regarding this appointment.
2. Open Town Positions – Mary Ellen Lemay noted the town has hired a new Planning Director, Recycling Coordinator, Economic Development Director. The engineering position and a zoning enforcement officer position have not been filled.
3. Hillcrest Courtyard Habitat Project – Mary Ellen Lemay noted that the United Way has been contacted. They are enthusiastic to coordinate volunteers for the day which may also include some additional funding.
4. Natural Resource Inventory – No report. It was noted that this inventory will be important to the new planning director.
5. Cross Country Sewer Line Remediation – Mary Ellen Lemay noted that this project has been completed in the Nichols area. The area has been graded and seeded but the mitigation plan has not been started. Planting and wetland remediation needs to be done.
6. Composting Project – Discussion was held regarding the composting project. The town would subsidize the purchase of composters for residents as a result of fines levied by the DEP. It was noted that the DEP has agreed to this project and has also levied another \$7,000 fine for not reporting storm water testing results for several years. John Marsilio will be going before the Board of Finance to request \$14,000 towards the composting project.

Twin brooks remediation was discussed and it was noted that members of the Conservation Commission have been invited to the discussions.

Implementation of the composting project was discussed. Scot Kerr presented preliminary numbers to the commission and noted more information was needed with regard to how successful Aquarian was with selling rain barrels. Bruce Silverstone will be contacted at Aquarian for this information. Jim Sullivan noted the town has purchased additional blue recycle bins. It was suggested that an article be placed in the Patch regarding this project and perhaps doing Survey Monkey to find out interest. Advance sales were strongly recommended. Timing of this project would be after July 1<sup>st</sup>. It takes four weeks from order to delivery of the Garden Gourmet and Green Cones which are the two items in the project.

**Action Items**

John Marsilio – Engineer appointment, Jim Sullivan is available as a consultant on compliance issues, compost timeline and sewer waste.

First Selectman – appointment of new commissioner, approval and signature of CTAC and appointment of representative.

Mary Ellen Lemay noted the new recycling coordinator will be attending the commission meeting on May 24.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall  
Clerk