

Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting
May 31, 2012
7:00pm.

Present: Mary Ellen Lemay, Chairman; Jim Sullivan; Scot Kerr, Joanne Parsons, Dale Parsons and Kate Bruzinski

Absent: Don Watson

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm.

Mary Ellen introduced and welcomed Kate Bruzinski as a new member of the Conservation Commission. Kate graduated from UConn with a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources and Fisheries and Wildlife Management. She has worked as a seasonal employee for DEP and has been exposed to many aspects of conservation.

Old Business

1. Old Mine Update: Mary Ellen noted that this was a very successful project and that Joanne and Dale did a great job designing the planting area. Some of the area has not been completed but will be in the near future. Joanne noted that the planting design plan will be used as an illustrative sign. Discussion was held regarding the new staff positions and it was noted that these individuals are very enthusiastic and will provide their support for such projects as well as present new ideas.

Joanne Parsons noted that the state contract for repair of the bridge should have a restoration component that includes continuing the theme of landscaping that was just completed. This could control the flooding in that area and provide green space at the end of the bridge. Mary Ellen noted the project has already been approved by the state but that the commission could speak with the new Town Engineer regarding the landscaping.

2. Landscape/Tree Ordinance: Mary Ellen noted that no meetings have been held and that the plan is being reviewed by the new town planner. She noted she went on a tour of the town with the tree warden, Warren Jacques. Mr. Jacques provided her with a book of notable trees and a set of regulations that are followed by the tree warden. Mary Ellen noted the tree warden works under Dmitri Paris and John Marsilio. Discussion was held regarding removal of trees on properties. It was noted that steps have been taken to prevent problems by including regulations when individuals come to the town hall for permits. However, this does not cover all circumstances and will still need to be monitored. A copy of the draft ordinance will be sent to the commissioners.
3. IWWC Activities: Inland Wetlands meets next week and on the agenda will be the Quarry Road Rails to Trails project. During discussion, it was noted that the project includes removal of invasive plants, a native planting buffer and a pervious pavement which will be used on a portion of the trail. The Greater Bridgeport Regional Council (GBRC) "fun facts" of the project was distributed.
4. Single Stream Recycling/Composting Project: Scot Kerr presented a summary of the conservation survey that was on the town website. He noted that as of this time, 213 individuals had responded

with positive feedback and an interest in recycling. It was noted that \$15,000 has been designated by the town as part of a DEP agreement to be used to purchase composters and digesters to be sold to interested individuals. Bids are being reviewed and it was noted that the money must be encumbered by June 30.

Discussion was held regarding dissemination of information related to recycling. This will be a project for Robin Bennet, the new Director of Waste Management. Hazardous Waste Day will be held June 9 from 9am-2pm at Indian Ledge Park for residents of Trumbull, Easton and Monroe.

5. GIS Update: No update. Training sessions need to be scheduled.
6. Natural Resource Inventory/Open Space GIS Map: No report.
7. Courtyard Habitat and Tree Planting at Middle School: This project is still in the planning stages. Joanne Parsons did secure a retractable canopy for the pergola to provide shade. It was suggested that the plant maintenance staff from the BOE be contacted about this area. Recycling at the schools should also be discussed at that time.
8. Materials Management Summit: Mary Ellen noted that this is very informative and she, Scot and Robin will be attending. She encouraged the other members of the commission to attend.
9. Status of Commissioner Seats and Subcommittees: Previously discussed.
10. Status of Open Staff Positions: Previously discussed.
11. Sewer Cross Country Remediation Plans: No additional information,
12. Rails to Trails – Trumbull Center and Quarry Road: Previously discussed.

New Business

1. Merritt Parkway Study: Mary Ellen noted that a public workshop was held on 5/14 to discuss the feasibility of a multi-use trail along the south side of the Merritt Parkway. She noted this presents multiple problems for Trumbull because of the complexity of the highway system around the parkway.
2. Power Plant Hearing: Scot Kerr attended the public hearing for the procurement of an operators permit for the coal plant in Bridgeport. He noted various organizations and interest groups were in attendance. The result of the hearing has not been published. This is the last coal powered plant in the state of CT.
3. Energy efficiency was discussed at the municipal and residential levels. It was noted that an energy study was conducted by the town of all town buildings but no action has been taken.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk