

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT**



Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting
Thursday, January 30, 2014
7:00pm
Nichols Room, Town Hall

Present: Chairman, Mary Ellen Lemay; Commissioners James Sullivan, Joanne Parsons, Dale Parsons, Scot Kerr (entered at 7:17pm). Also present Tim Loughlin.

Absent: Don Watson

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

Past Minutes: It was moved by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Parsons, to approve the minutes of December 18, 2013 as written. Unanimous.

Calendar Updates

Mrs. Lemay noted there was a Main Street CT Meeting held in Hartford. Purpose of the meeting was to discuss the redevelopment of main streets within towns. She presented a brochure from Bath, ME with their redevelopment plan for the town including trails. One aspect of this idea is to keep original buildings and by retrofitting. This meeting included planners from many towns interested in revitalization of downtown areas. Funding for these projects was also discussed.

Mrs. Lemay also noted the US Fish and Wildlife organization has a management plan they would put together to evaluate the health of the our town including water and open space. She has the contact information for the CT representative.

Mr. Kerr entered the meeting at 7:17pm.

Year in Review 2013

Mrs. Lemay reviewed with the commissioners the following projects/accomplishments:

1. POCD
2. Hillcrest Courtyard Habitat
3. Rooster River Watershed Plan
4. Meadowmorphosis
5. Sewer Right of Way – noted the IWWC chairman contacted her regarding permanent markers; plan for mowing will be discussed with Mr. Smeriglio
6. NHMP Workshop
7. Town Storm Water Management Standards – should have been in effect 1/1/2014
8. Old Mine ASLA Award – entered by Dale & Joanne Parsons as a demonstration project with Section 319 funding.

Discussion was held regarding funding for various projects noting the town would need to provide a matching amount and the commission would need to get this support to proceed. It was suggested that the commission write to the First Selectman regarding these projects and the 319 grants available. There is talk of a master plan for open space within the town and this may include the open space under the Conservation Commission. The commission is an asset to the town by developing procedures and program in the area of conservation and preservation.

Mrs. Lemay presented the brochures prepared by the members of the Conservation Commission regarding Low Impact Development and Trees. These will be distributed by the Planning and Zoning office to residents of the town in a July mailing. LID will be changed to Green Infrastructure before the brochure is printed as requested by Mrs. Bratt. This information will also be added to the website as links to the Conservation Commission. It was noted the Conservation Commission is already linked to the Land Trust website which holds valuable information regarding open spaces in the town.

2014 Projects

1. Tree Ordinance – Tree Ordinance is still in the works. Vegetative management plans are being developed. Letters have been written regarding the state tree management plan. If this is adopted, we can proceed with it in the town. Tree City USA gives funding for tree management. This does require a plan advisory committee, the town Council would need to allocate \$2.00 per capita and the town would need to proclaim Arbor Day. This is in the POCD. It is hopeful the First Selectman will work towards getting this initiative started. Mr. Watson's green sheet was reviewed. This is part of the educational component of the value of trees. Funding was approved for a tree canopy study to be conducted by the University of Vermont.
2. RFP for Water Quality Testing in Pequonnock – Earthplace has done water quality testing on the upper part of the Pequonnock and they may be conducting this part of the testing also. 2009 was the last water quality test.
3. Awaiting approval of new commission member.
4. Solarize CT – February 11, 2014 is the deadline.
5. Stream Walk of Rooster River – needs funding.
6. Trumbull Land Trust and Trumbull Nature & Arts Commission – It was noted some high school students have completed some mapping of the town.
7. Discussion was held regarding a vision statement or strategic action plan be developed for the commission this year. It was suggested that Patricia Zablocky be invited to the next meeting to discuss the website to gain insight as to what the commission could be doing to improve awareness.
8. Discussion was held regarding the planting of trees by the commission. Suggestion was made to work with the garden clubs on this initiative. There are some areas in town that should be addressed. Mrs. Parson noted the commission should devise a plan to accomplish this initiative.
9. Mr. Loughlin noted some individuals are trying to change the pesticide law and that additional meetings are scheduled for discussion.

IWWC Activities

Mr. Parsons noted the new assisted living facility resubmitted plans which are very complete. No further comment from the commission required.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall, Clerk