

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT**



Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, February 26, 2014
7:00pm
Tashua Room, Town Hall

Present: Chairman Mary Ellen Lemay, Donald Watson, James Sullivan and Scot Kerr. Also present Tim Coughlin.

Absent: Joanne Parsons and Dale Parsons

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

Past Minutes: It was moved by Mr. Kerr, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to approve the minutes as written. Unanimous.

Calendar Updates

Mrs. Lemay noted the meeting dates have been changed to Wednesday evenings for the remainder of the year.

The Connecticut Land Conservation Conference will be held on March 15th at Wesleyan University. Land trust, conservation policies, collaboration of conservation commission and land trusts are topics of discussion. Mrs. Lemay will attend as our representative.

The Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists will meet on March 20th.

The Connecticut chapter of the National Organic Farm Association will meet on March 1st. Mrs. Lemay will be attending and presenting the Old Mine Park project. This will be held at Western Connecticut State University.

Earth Place/Harbor Watch will be hosting water testing classes for three Saturdays in March – 1, 8 and 15. You must attend all three classes. Mr. Sullivan noted the commission may want to collect data on water quality. The group will be conducting a water quality test in Trumbull. Mr. Smeriglio has \$15,000 to do this testing this year. It will be put out to bid. Mr. Watson noted there are still some sources of pollution in the Pequonnock River that have not been identified and the testing of the water may help to locate the sources. It was felt that the same ten sites will be monitored as they did in the past. It was also noted the Rooster River project has been approved by the state.

The Southwest Conservation District Newsletter was discussed. This includes their April plant sale and upcoming courses.

2013 Year in Review

This was reviewed at the last meeting.

DEEP #319 Grants

Mr. Watson reported that we have the grant for Old Mine Park in the amount of \$35,000. Mr. Smeriglio must wait for the official letter to the town but the work will be in the hands of Dmitri Paris. This project includes some land work and planting (vegetative buffer, bike rack and six porous parking spaces). This work has been discussed for many years and has been approved by the Parks Commission and the Town Council. Deadline for use of the funding will need to be watched in the event the state makes any changes.

Tree/Landscape Preservation Ordinance

Mr. Watson noted the ordinance was presented to Jamie Bratt several months ago and the town attorney is currently reviewing it. The Greenwich Tree Ordinance was discussed by the commission which only deals with public property. Mr. Watson discussed the proposed tree work by UI. This work will cut trees in an eight foot wide clearing around certain poles down to the ground level with no plan for replanting. The tree warden is the point of contact and will be responsible to approve all cutting of trees however, homeowners can fight the removal of trees through a process. Information received by UI is incomplete. Mr. Watson proposed the commission be proactive by taking before and after pictures to help in securing replanting money. Mr. Watson also suggested the commission meet with Mr. Paris to see if he would support an ordinance like the one in Greenwich. This would also include an education component. It was also noted that Tree City will need to have a tree committee if that is going to be pursued.

Mrs. Bratt entered the meeting at 7:50pm.

Land Trust Property

No update from the attorney. The deed transfer is being reviewed by the attorneys but no update.

IWWC Activities

Discussion was held regarding the building application in Monroe. Trumbull was given Intervener Status which allows the town to review information. Traffic concerns and environmental issues are the points being discussed.

Sustainable Main Street Conference

Mrs. Lemay noted she will attend this conference which will focus on the revitalization efforts of older buildings. Energy efficiency can be very high in older buildings.

New Members

Mrs. Lemay will set up appointment with the First Selectman regarding the appointment of a new commissioner.

Green Infrastructure Award

Mr. Sullivan stated he would like to award a Green Infrastructure Award for 2014. Details would need to be worked out.

ASLA Award

Ceremony was held in December. The commission would still like to do a press release. This will be discussed with the First Selectman.

Old Mine Signage

It was noted signage for Old Mine will need to be discussed with the new project included.

Natural Resource Inventory

Mr. Watson noted we have many plans in the works, such as trees, lakes, gray infrastructure, for the NRI that should be part of the town GIS. The GBRC is working on coordination of maps so that decisions can be made on projects which would be backed by scientific information.

GBRC Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

No report.

Rooster River Watershed Based Plan

Mr. Watson noted the town can make proposals for 319 grant money in September.

Trumbull Green Pages

This has been redirected towards brochures and will also be available in electronic form.

Storm Drains

Mr. Sullivan would like to review the map of the storm drains to see where the water goes.

Hazard Mitigation

Mr. Smeriglio has taken on the project of reviewing FEMA requirements for funding for hazard mitigation.

Tree Planting

Discussion was held regarding replanting of trees. Mr. Coughlin suggested the commission start with a project at Tashua School this year. Mr. Sullivan noted the Father's Club would be interested in doing a fund raiser to help support the event.

Bike Trail Along Merritt Parkway

Meetings have been posted regarding the bike trail but nothing has been posted for Trumbull residents yet.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted

Barbara Crandall
Clerk