

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT**



Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting
Thursday, January 29, 2015
7:00 pm

Present: Chairman Mary Ellen Lemay; Commissioners Tim Coughlin, Jim Sullivan, Joanne Parsons, Dale Parsons and Don Watson

Absent: Commissioner Lars Jorgensen. Also present Cindy Altman, Joanne and Doug Owens

The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm by Chairman Lemay.

Past Minutes

Minutes of December 17, 2014 were reviewed. Name change on page 1, under Calendar Updates – should read “Mrs. Parsons and...”. Motion made by Mr. Parsons, seconded by Mr. Coughlin to approve the minutes as corrected.

IWWC Activities

Lengthy discussion was held regarding the Daniels Farm Road development. Mrs. Lemay noted she has a meeting with Bill Maurer on 1/30 and will discuss several points that have been questioned such as how can the town ensure proper management of the swales, who manages the phasing of the lots for clearing until they can be sold, who will own the 100 foot buffer and maintain detention basins. A new plan submitted today was reviewed. A letter was also written by Mr. Maurer to Mr. Bjorklund regarding several areas of the plans which was distributed for review. Mr. Watson will attend the meeting with Mr. Maurer and Mrs. Lemay. One question not addressed was from the neighbors regarding impervious surfaces. There seems to be a discrepancy between the plan and what has been discussed. Mr. Maurer has indicated the tree plan is insufficient. It does not show the trees that exist now. It shows trees in the perimeter and trees being removed from that perimeter. It was suggested that the developer might benefit from information regarding the trees on the property and how to work with existing trees to maximize conservation. Mr. Watson noted that P&Z can write in a script for planting of trees for privacy and if you argue for the conservation value they may be willing to put something into the plan. This would be in an advisory capacity.

Status of Term Renewals

Letters for reappointment to the Conservation Commission were received by Mr. Coughlin, Mr. Sullivan and Mr. and Mrs. Parsons.

Calendar Updates

1. Redistributed for calendar for 2015.
2. Follow-up notes were reviewed from the December meeting:
 - a. Reappointment letters for commissioners
 - b. Rail to Trail Plan

- c. Pequonnock River water testing report sent to Commissioners
 - d. POCD was distributed.
 - e. Daniels Farm Road Development was discussed.
3. The Regional POCD – no meetings scheduled. However, there is a survey for people who commute on-line. The Regional POCD is in the works.
 4. IWWC meeting – Daniels Farm development most likely will be pushed to March.

Rail To Trail

Mrs. Lemay noted there is a lot of activity in the Quarry Road area and no information has been received from Mr. Paris. A CTAC meeting was scheduled for this week and they were asked if they could talk to the members about the Rails to Trails. She would like to be kept in the loop but does not have any contact information for the project at this time. In response to that request, a study on the Pequonnock River Trail was received by Mrs. Lemay. A presentation was also given to Mrs. Lemay on the Trumbull Center Boardwalk portion of the Trail. Preliminary designs have been done but the Conservation Commission is very concerned about what is being done. Also, the project has gone farther ahead without input from the Commission. Information has been gleaned from various projects for this presentation. Mr. Watson noted that a bikeway subcommittee has been formed which includes a representative from each town. It is unknown who the Trumbull representative may be. The Quarry Road bikeway has been managed by Mr. Paris and the Commission was involved in its development. There seems to be considerable re-working of the wetland near the swap property and Mr. Marsilio needs to know that Mr. Paris has not responded to an official request from the Commission regarding information on this particular project. A formal request should be made to Mr. Marsilio that he respond to this inquiry with a copy to the First Selectman. Mrs. Lemay noted that the activity along the river in that area has not been brought to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Watson noted there was controversy with plans regarding the crossing of Daniels Farm Road and the crossing of a floodway which may have legal implications. Many questions remain regarding this project. Mrs. Lemay will meet with Mr. Marsilio after her meeting with Mr. Maurer. CTAC knows nothing about this part of the project and there is no contact.

CTAC Meeting

Cancelled because of snow; moved to next Monday, February 2, at 11am. Mrs. Lemay requested a presentation of the Rails to Trails be done at this rescheduled meeting.

Water Testing Plan

Mrs. Lemay distributed to the Commissioners. Sampling sites were reviewed. One site is where the Pequonnock River passes the Daniels Farm Road bridge. Another site was tested upstream from that site. This site received substantial runoff from Norwood Terrace which feeds right into the valley. This site has extremely high E. Coli which indicates an infiltration from a compromised storm drain. This area will need to be retested. Water quality was best where the riparian buffers were the thickest.

Rails to Trails Boardwalk

Plans for a boardwalk through Trumbull Center were reviewed. This may need to be higher up as it is in the flood plain and would go through wetlands.

Donation of Open Space

Mrs. Lemay noted a donation of 1.5 acres to the town from a development on Huntington Turnpike near Misch Brook Park is being proposed. This property is not suitable for development and since it is ecologically sensitive, it could become a protected area. Discussion was held regarding the land trust. The Trumbull Land Trust is dormant as an active 501c3 organization. At one point there was a discussion of deeding the properties to the town but this did not move forward. Monroe would like to merge land trusts with Trumbull and there is a possibility of Shelton joining. This would give us a tri-town land trust.

All land is still out there and the proposal to give these areas to the town is with the First Selectman. This situation will come up again with the proposed open space donation on Booth Hill Road. This will be an action item for the Commission. We have documented the land trust properties, categorized them as active or passive, a report was written and a proposal was written that these properties be transferred to the town with Conservation Commission management. This was brought to the First Selectman's office two years ago but has not been acted upon to date. This proposal should be brought back to the table through Lynn Arnow. We should also include Jamie Bratt and Frank Smeriglio. These individuals should be informed in the light of current proposals.

Action Items

1. Land Trust
2. Bike Trail
3. Wetlands
4. Mr. Paris/Quarry Road

Photo Contest

Mr. Sullivan noted twelve pictures have been submitted. There are some great shots of areas of Trumbull, animals in the parks or interesting shots of ordinary things. It was agreed the Commissioners should vote on the winner. Displaying the photos was discussed. Mr. Sullivan noted the Town Videographer has contact him regarding someone speaking about a healthy town once the contest is completed. He recommended that we undertake this initiative but more information is necessary. Discussion was held regarding doing small spots on various projects.

Land Restoration

Mr. Coughlin noted the pond by the old Christmas tree farm on Fuller Road is in terrible shape. It is full of invasive plants, trees are falling over and it needs work. He questioned who would be in charge of projects on this property. He is currently doing land restoration/remediation at his job and this area could use work. He would like to work on reclaiming this property with volunteers. This request should be directed to Mr. Marsilio as this area should be under Mr. Paris not the Parks Department. Perhaps the town will help with the heavy work.

IWWC Applications

One interesting project was reviewed. The project on Booth Hill Road has reduced the lot size by deeding open space to the town. This was done through a hardship which was taking some of the land and turning it into a conservation area. Variance was received. This project is a win-win as the developer went through the channels first for variances in lot sizes which allowed him to proceed without problems. Next step is IWWC. No action needs to be taken.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Watson to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 pm. Seconded by Mrs. Parsons and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk

These minutes are considered a draft until approved at the next meeting of the Conservation Commission.