

Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting
April 28, 2011
7:00pm

Present: Mary Ellen Lemay, Chairman; Don Watson; Jim Sullivan,; Joanne Parsons; Dale Parsons; John Russell

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by the chairman. Motion made by Mary Ellen Lemay, seconded by Don Watson to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2011 meeting as posted on the web. Approved unanimously.

Old Business

Pequonnock River Initiative

Mary Ellen Lemay reported there was a meeting between Bridgeport, Trumbull and Monroe this past week. The Fuss & O'Neil study will be ending and the towns will then be on their own to work out the recommendations on items that need to be done. Don Watson reported there is a lot of good momentum with regard to this project. DEP will reward proposals that improve the water quality of the Pequonnock River. Fuss & O'Neil has been requested to write a report titled the Pequonnock River Watershed Plan with the input of the three towns. The CT DEP will be requested to approve this plan and with this approval and then the towns can apply, together or separately, for funds. Funds are available for correction and improvement of the river. One barrier to this project is a regulation currently being reviewed regarding the set backs. Inland Wetlands is hesitant to set a regulation at this time. Discussion was held regarding the process to be followed in September with Planning, Inland Wetlands, P&Z or Board of Appeals and Parks Commission. Don noted the burden of the Pequonnock River implementation will be on a group of volunteers from each town. He noted education and public support behind the proposal will be essential. A few models are available to review include Norwalk and Southbury.

Mary Ellen noted the briefing paper distributed was helpful with regard to concerns about land use regulations implemented by a town board. The paper notes local governments may adopt flood plain regulations that exceed state or federal national flood insurance minimum standards.

Water testing was discussed and potential sources of pollution.

John Russell questioned why a gravel road is being built near the reservoir bed in the Valley. He believes this road is being constructed through a wetlands area and a turtle nesting area. Theo and Dmitri will be contacted regarding this installation.

The next meeting for the Pequonnock River Initiative is May 31.

June 4th is a clean up day for the Pequonnock River and also Trail Day. There is also a clean up in Island Brook Park in Bridgeport. Aquarian will be selling rain barrels and compost bins for a discount on June 4th at the Town Hall.

Landscape/Tree Ordinance

No report at this time. The role of the tree warden was discussed.

Mary Ellen Lemay noted there are several areas that have been clear cut with the sewer project in town - specifically Mischia Brook Park and on Golden Hill. They need to keep the area clear but they are able to stagger the plantings. Discussion was held regarding the condition of the top soil which is essential to plantings and how these areas could be addressed. A copy of the sewer contract will be requested to verify if there is a restoration plan. Clairjon Garard will be contacted regarding this.

IWWC Activities

No report.

Single Stream Recycling

DEP presented information to John Marsillio, Tim, Dan and Mary Ellen on recycling. Trumbull would like to be proactive in recycling. As of last week, the facility in Shelton got their permit. Trumbull was very vocal in their position to do single stream recycling. There are now two facilities which support this green industry which is not enough. Trumbull can now move forward with this initiative. Sorting of materials was discussed. Education of the public is necessary to keep the quality of the end product high. The Conservation Commission and DEP can work together on educational materials. John Marsillio has requested a recycling coordinator in the budget. Part of the job description is education to schools and residents. Discussion was held regarding recycling barrels. The end goal of this initiative is to lower the town budget.

Only 12% of solid waste is recycled. Trumbull only recycles #1 & 2 plastics. Our goal is to increase to 40% within the next two years. The state goal for 2023 is 58% which is very low. Charging residents for disposal of waste was discussed.

Trumbull's composting station was discussed.

GIS

Don Watson noted the GIS is available for review on the web. The town must complete their tasks on the system. Flood maps were discussed. Don Watson noted the Town Engineer needs to be contacted with regard to the flood management plan. If towns do not have a flood management plan that is completely up to date with FEMA, it doesn't qualify for relief in the event of a flood.

Discussion was held regarding the new land acquisition off Quarry Road and potential development.

Trumbull Nature Center

It is the intent to move the center from its present location. A subcommittee was created to review potential sites to help select a new location. Several sites are being considered either on private property or in the parks.

New Business

A letter was received by the Conservation Commission regarding the sewer plant. It was felt the commission should be consulted in the discussions.

Expansion of the commission was discussed. Jim Sullivan noted other towns have sub-committees to help with the work. Don Watson stated that when we start to work on the upcoming tasks, we will need

additional help. A resolution would need to be presented to the Town Council to expand the commission. Don Watson moved that at the appropriate time, the commission ask for two more commissioners.

A Conservation Commission website was discussed. This would be an excellent venue for dissemination of information and resident feedback.

Trumbull Patch would like to publish some environment issues. We can write something on recycling.

Action Items for Commission

1. Review email on Nature Center
2. Review GIS link
3. Single Stream Recycling – Jim Sullivan will compile more information
4. Gravel Road – Mary Ellen
5. E-waste, organic waste and composting – Mary Ellen Lemay
6. Sewer Contract and landscape restoration for sewer easement – Joanne Parsons
7. Website construction

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk