

Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting
September 29, 2011
7:00pm

Present: Mary Ellen Lemay, chairman; Don Watson; Jim Sullivan; John Russell; Joanne Parsons; Dale Parsons; Beverly Doyle, Monroe Water Conservation and Water Resources Commission; Marvin Moss, Monroe Land Trust and Tree Conservancy Inc.; and William Pisani, Tree Ordinance Study Group

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by the chairman. The following changes were made to the minutes of the last meeting – date changed to June 27 from May 28 and corrected the name Pisano to Pisani. Don Watson moved to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Joanne Parsons and approved unanimously.

The Chairman welcomed Marvin Moss from the Monroe Conservation Commission and Beverly Doyle with the Monroe Water Conservation and Water Resources Commission to the meeting. Both attended the meeting to speak about developing a cooperative tree ordinance with Trumbull. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the content of the ordinance, resources to be utilized to write the various aspects of the document, and the impact a united effort would have on both communities. There is a concern about clear cutting and set backs in both communities.

Don Watson noted that Hurricane Irene promoted an interest in the maintenance and removal of trees. Bill Pisani gave an overview of the proposal sent to the Trumbull Conservation Committee from the study group noting they attempted to focus on critical issues. Discussion of the various sections of the proposal was held noting that the document could be amended as needed in the future. This proposal is still in the draft form and will require a review by counsel. It was also recommended that we include Bridgeport in the development of this ordinance. This could also be complimentary to the Pequonnock River Initiative and support of the bordering towns is important.

Discussion was held regarding the importance of public education in advance of this ordinance explaining the importance of trees in the towns. Enforcement may be difficult and that is why public awareness is essential.

Beverly Doyle presented information about removing invasive species. Information will be sent to the Commission for their review.

It was agreed that both Commissions would work together to develop a tree ordinance.

Old Business

Report on Pequonnock River Initiative – Don Watson noted the report was distributed and has been approved by the State of CT. Towns are now eligible to apply for 319 water quality grants. Don noted the Ann Richardson Funding was received for Old Mine Park. Dmitri Paris and his department will begin work on the landscape plan with planting to be done in the spring. The Parsons designed the landscape plan for the park and will see it through to completion. It was noted that landscaping is also being done in Beardsley Park and Wolf Park. Don was congratulated for all the work he has put into these projects.

Library parking project – bids for the project were received but were cost prohibitive and damaged the landscape. No further action will be taken by the Commission unless requested.

IWWC – no activity.

Single Stream Recycling – this initiative has been implemented but the general public is not aware of it. We can now recycle all plastics #1-7 in the blue bins. Staff is being hired to oversee this project which will include education of the public. It was requested that another tour of the burn plant and recycle center be scheduled. Discussion was held regarding fall leaf pick up John Russell felt the concept of single stream recycling is confusing to the public. Education must be very clear as to how this works.

GIS Update – It was noted that contractors have more work to do on the system. The pilot is on the website but has some problems.

Trumbull Nature Center – Location of a new center was discussed. Currently, there is no plan to sell the property where the existing center is located.

New Business

The chairman noted she received a large report regarding the cell tower on Edison Road. Anyone interested in reading the information can contact her.

Habitat Redesign of the Courtyard at Hillcrest Middle School – Mary Ellen and Joanne will be working to redesign the three courtyards for educational purposes. The Nature Center has applied for a \$1,000 grant for plant material. It was also suggested that the Vo-Ag might be interested in growing plants. The Hillcrest Garden Club will help when the plans are completed.

Jim Sullivan stated he worked at the river clean-up by the bus depot. He noted the area was littered with trash and questioned if there was a way to approach First Student to encourage them to keep the area clean. He noted one section of the parking lot was falling into the river. It was not known who was responsible for this maintenance and Dmitri Paris will be contacted. Environmental issues in the area need to be addressed if they exist.

The Pequonnock River Walk will be held on October 23, 2011.

The meetings for the remainder of the year will be October 27, November 17 and December 15.

The need for additional members on the Commission was discussed. The Charter review adds one seat. The Commission needs additional people to take on the various initiatives, including public outreach.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk