

Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting
December 15, 2011
7:00pm

Present: Mary Ellen Lemay, chairman; Don Watson; Jim Sullivan; Joanne Parsons; Dale Parsons; Margaret Mixon, Greater Bridgeport Regional Council; Megan Herrmann, University of New Haven Student

The meeting was called to order at 6:10pm by the chairman. Don Watson moved to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Jim Sullivan and approved unanimously.

Mary Ellen Lamay noted that two seats are available on the Commission. One additional seat was approved with the changes to the Town Charter. She will be writing a press release to the community announcing the vacancies. An individual with a link to the educational system would be helpful.

Old Business:

Pequonnock River Initiative: It was noted the PRI Watershed group has completed their plans with the Greater Bridgeport Regional Council and is taking over the management of the plan and implementing any projects relating to the health of the river. Trumbull has the project in Old Mine Park to put in a natural buffer along the river. This will be moving forward dependent on weather with completion expected in June 2012. Additional money is available for outreach training and public events related to this project.

The Conservation Commission will meet with the Senior Transportation Planner about the rails to trails which will be renamed "Pequonnock River Trail". A public information session was held in Trumbull recently. Margaret Mixon is the liaison between our organization and the Greater Bridgeport Regional Council. Question was raised as to which public official will be responsible for the trail through Trumbull. John Marsilio will be contacted.

Margaret Mixon stated the Conservation Technical Advisory Commission has approved bylaws. The Commission will host the PRI and help to secure grants or whatever is needed. Six towns are currently involved in the project which is helpful but may generate more time to accomplish goals. Several different funding streams will be available for the project. It was noted that this is the first time that municipalities have come together to address this type of project. Other issues will also be addressed including brown fields, costal resilience, and the tree ordinance.

Tree Ordinance: Mary Ellen Lemay thanked the Monroe Tree Contingency for contributing to the discussion with the Town of Trumbull regarding the tree ordinance. The Commission will proceed to work on this and hope other towns will join. Watersheds in Stamford and Norwalk were briefly discussed.

IWWC Activities: No activity. Mary Ellen reported the Commission did not receive pertinent information due to administrative changes at the Town Hall. This was brought to the attention of Steve Savarese and has been corrected. Discussion was held regarding the Hidden Pond application. It was noted the application was approved with one additional lot being added and the 28 points. Mary Ellen

noted she has requested a member of the Conservation Commission be present in the Executive Session when this comes before the Planning and Zoning Board. Inland wetlands noted significant violations of working without permits. This will be part of the Executive Session at the next meeting.

Mary Ellen noted she attended 3 workshops conducted by the Land Use Leadership Alliance affiliated with Pace Law School.

Single Stream Recycling: It was noted a selection committee has been formed to decide on a coordinator. Extra containers are available at the town garage. Site visits to the recycling center and Bridgeport RESCO will be set up. Jim Sullivan noted that the erosion problem along the river by the First Student bus depot is on town property and will need to be addressed.

GIS Update: Don Watson noted the program is in its final stages of updating. This should have been completed 12/15.

Trumbull Nature Center: No update.

New Business

Mary Ellen Lemay distributed to the Commission a list of goals accomplishments for the year 2011.

Discussion was held regarding the tree ordinance and the work being done by the utility companies due to the recent storms.

Don Watson suggested that articles be written to inform the public about the projects undertaken by the Commission. Several topics were discussed. Dale Parson noted there is a lack of knowledge about the storms with regard to the trees and the potential loss in the future. Also invasive species should be addressed.

Don Watson thanked Mary Ellen for her leadership as chair of the Commission. Mary Ellen thanked everyone for a great year with many accomplishments.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk