

Trumbull Conservation Commission

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT**



Town Hall
5866 Main Street
Trumbull, Connecticut 06611

Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, January 28, 2026
7:00 pm
Nichols Room, Town Hall

AGENDA

Call to Order

Past Minutes – Approval of the December 10, 2025 Minutes

New Business

Old Business

1. Update - State Forester Evaluation of Open Spaces – Mr. Coughlin
 - a. Beaches Park
2. Vine Team Update – Mr. Lindsey
3. Review and Discussion of IWWC Applications
 - a. Pinewood Trail Property
4. Arbor Day Activity

Next Meeting – February 25, 2026

Adjournment

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Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, December 10, 2025
Long Hill Conference Room – Trumbull Town Hall
7:00 pm

Present: Commissioners Tim Coughlin, John Massari, Dean Lindsey, Kate Giannelli, Mark Schroeder and Sara Laden (entered at 7:55 pm)

Also Present: Janet Epstein and Christine Dobi

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Mr. Coughlin.

Past Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Schroeder to approve the minutes of October 28, 2025; seconded by Mr. Lindsey and approved with an abstention from Mr. Schroeder.

Motion was made by Mr. Lindsey to approve the minutes of November 6, 2025; seconded by Mr. Schroeder. Motion passed with an abstention from Ms. Giannelli.

New Business

1. Election of Officers – Mr. Coughlin and Mr. Massari agreed to extend their positions as Co-Chair of the Commission. Motion was made by Mr. Lindsey to continue the current leadership for 2026. Seconded by Ms. Giannelli and approved by unanimous consent.
2. Discussion and Approval of Meeting Dates for 2026 – Motion was made by Mr. Schroeder to accept the meeting dates as presented for 2026. Seconded by Ms. Giannelli and approved by unanimous consent.

Old Business

1. Mr. Schroeder discussed the walk through of the Old Tashua Tree Farm with the State Forester. Mr. Beers pointed out areas that could be addressed in the Spring and Fall. By continuous attention, the property's invasives could be kept under control. Areas to be addressed include the old root cellar, the abandoned farm equipment, stone walls for the corals, the old barn and pump house. Native and non-native trees were identified. Additional work could be done on the stream and pond areas with a new bridge and dam.

Mr. Coughlin feels it is a beautiful piece of property and, if maintained, would be an asset to the Town. The report from the Forester was distributed to the Commission and Mr. Paris. Mr. Paris was asked to start the project by removing some of the trash. An operational plan will be developed outlining priorities for Public Works. Initial effort would be simple and include clearing some invasives and clearing the road to the bridge.

The work could be done by volunteers and liability was discussed. Mr. Lindsey noted his Vine Team clearing effort as discussed with Mr. Paris and Mrs. Katske, did not indicate any issues in that regard. Mr. Coughlin noted the property is listed as open space. Mrs. Katske previously agreed to speak with the Town Attorney about what can be done on the property and if it can be developed.

The initial walk through was conducted with the Natural Resource Inventory information. It was felt they should develop a map with specifics for Mr. Paris.

The Forester also provided information regarding grants available for these types of initiatives. Other organizations could be interested in helping. Mr. Lindsey will contact Rina Bakalar to discuss potential grant funding for this or other projects.

Mr. Coughlin noted work could be done in the winter months when the plants are dormant and manpower may be more available.

The Forester sent a form to be completed regarding the walk-through in Beaches Park. Mr. Coughlin will be in contact with Mr. Paris regarding a date for this walk-through and completion of the form. It was felt the Old Tashua Tree Farm could be a learning lab opportunity for local students.

Mr. Coughlin will investigate the possibility of the Commission purchasing equipment to work on these types of projects.

2. Vine Team Update – Mr. Lindsey noted he had six volunteers attend the event at Twin Brooks Park. Some of the invasives removed were burning bushes, vines, barberry, poison ivy and oriental bittersweet. He noted individuals walking through the park were very interested in what was taking place and he felt that some type of notice could be displayed in the park kiosk to announce the event in the future. It may generate more interest and participation. It was agreed to plan the next event for January 31 at 9:00 am in Twin Brooks Park with an inclement weather date of February 7. Identification of invasives was helpful. Additional discussion was held regarding locations/platforms to place the flyer announcing the next event, individuals to contact at the schools, etc. for student participation and equipment purchase.

It was noted that the new date for the Forester visit to Beaches Park should be planned soon. Discussion was held regarding educational information for the Old Tashua Tree Farm property that could be posted on site. This could include the history as a farm with the pastures and stone walls as well as the importance of the pond and stream.

3. Review and Discussion of IWWC Applications – Mr. Coughlin indicated he attended the IWWC hearing on the Plum Tree Lane application noting it was well attended by the public. He noted there are no wetlands on the property located in Trumbull but the Easton property does have

wetlands. The decision to approve the application will be with Easton as IWWC does not have any reason to deny. Several individuals spoke at the hearing on various topics of concern. Additional information was requested of the developer such as a tree inventory.

4. Rail to Trail Benches – Mr. Coughlin noted he spoke with Mr. Paris regarding the installation of benches on the Pequonnock Valley trail. Mr. Paris indicated he did not have a problem with individuals putting benches on the trail but noted they would have to pay for the installation and follow the Town procedures for doing such an installation including hiring Town-approved vendors. Ms. Laden will be advised on the placement of benches and what needs to be done.
5. Ms. Epstein discussed the property on Pinewood Trail, Lot 38, noting the Zoning Board of Appeals approved building on the property. She noted it is very narrow and on a steep slope. Mr. Coughlin will check on the status of the application and submission of a plan. It is unknown if a public hearing will be scheduled. Mr. Massari will also contact Inland Wetlands regarding this property.
6. Mrs. Katske forwarded an email regarding a potential new Commissioner. As the Commission does not approve new members, Mr. Coughlin will contact Mrs. Katske and indicate the First Selectman's office should take the appropriate next steps.
7. Suggestion was made to consider pedestrian sidewalks as a new initiative. It was felt by the Commissioners that this topic did not fit into the purview of the Commissions' work.
8. Mr. Paris is inquiring about funding for tree planting in the spring. This is helping the Town and shows that the program is working. Pollinator Pathway funding is also available.
9. No additional information has been received regarding the recycling of invasives.
10. Suggestion was made to consider some type of tree planting for Arbor Day

Ms. Laden entered the meeting at 7:55 pm.

Ms. Laden discussed the placement of information on the website and will work with Ms. Giannelli on topics.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Massari to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm. Seconded by Mr. Schroeder and approved by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk