

Trumbull Nature Commission Virtual Meeting  
Wednesday, March 12, 2025  
7:00 pm

ZOOM

Agenda

**Call to Order**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Comments**

**Approve Minutes** September 17, 2024 and December 17, 2024

**TNAC Q&A**

1. Commission Questions/Comments Regarding Written Director Report

**Old Business**

1. Update - TNAC Building and Grounds
2. Update – Architectural Plans and Budget for Building Remodel
3. Grant Opportunities
4. Nature Commissioner on TNAC Board

**New Business**

1. Next Meeting – June 17, 2025

**Adjournment**

Trumbull Nature Commission Regular Meeting

Mar 12, 2025 7:00 PM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82790350109?pwd=qchzfeEzfdUovRko2THazsRc3daAPi.1>

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Trumbull Nature Commission Virtual Meeting  
Tuesday, September 17, 2024  
6:30 pm

**Present:** Chairman Jack Boynton, Karen Laracca and Olia Yelner

Absent: Emily Shufrin

Also Present: Sheryl Baumann from TNAC

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mr. Boynton followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by Ms. Yelner to approve the minutes from September 19, 2023 and June 4, 2024. Seconded by Ms. Laracca and approved by unanimous consent.

**TNAC Director's Report**

Ms. Baumann shared her report with the Commissioners (attached to the minutes) noting the following:

1. The Center will not be receiving any Town ARPA funds. Funds were given towards COVID-related projects. They had requested funds for support of the programs, a flail mower, a greenhouse that would expand the programs and allow additional programs in the winter and a replacement of the sunflower garden fence. She is hopeful there would be another round of funding.
2. Funding opportunities were reviewed including:
  - a. CT DEEP grant.
  - b. NAA Grant approved by the Town Council and the State which allows companies to receive a tax credit for any donations. Under this grant, TNAC applied to UI and Aquarian. UI said they would get back to her about the grant request.
  - c. State \$100,000 has moved to the next stages but are waiting. TNAC would be a sub-recipient.
3. Tashua Knolls will be doing the butterfly release again with proceeds to the Center.
4. Henkel gave \$10,000 towards a program for fourth graders on climate change.
5. Werth Foundation awarded \$2,400.
6. Sara Cody, Channel 8 News, featured the Center in her new book "Around Every Corner of Connecticut. 100 Towns to Explore Every Season".
7. Very busy with programs in the fall for Trumbull, Newtown, Bridgeport and Woodbridge as well as a home-school group. She has many seasonal programs also listed in her report.
8. Participated in the Farmer's Market with information on Lyme disease, a Find the Tick display, a scavenger hunt for Twin Brooks and a butterfly craft. At the Trumbull Arts Festival, they had the bird glider craft. Fall Festival will be an animal track rubbing.
9. Building projects are not being addressed by the Town.

10. The Five-year Capital Plan is being prepared with a meeting coming up soon. Mr. Estrada noted he will be in touch.

Ms. Yelner asked about the butterfly project at Tashua Knolls. Ms. Baumann noted this a fund raiser where they capture caterpillars from the golf course, put them in a tank and grow them to be released on the property. For a donation, you can name a butterfly.

Mr. Boynton stated he walked the property and questioned what was being done with the following areas:

1. Tree of Heaven attracting the Lantern Flies - Ms. Baumann noted the plan for that area will be to covered with mulch in the Fall which is meant to smother the growth.
2. Trail by the stream – Ms. Baumann agreed it is overgrown. It is the least used trail on the property. The purchase of the flail mower would have helped to clear it.
3. Multifloral rose is abundant.

#### **Next Meeting**

December 17, 2024.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, motion was made by Ms. Laracca to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 pm. Seconded by Ms. Yelner and approved by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall

Clerk

Trumbull Nature Commission Virtual Meeting  
Tuesday, December 17, 2024  
7:00 pm

**Present:** Chairman Jack Boynton, Karen Laracca and Olia Yelner

Absent: Olia Yelner

Also Present: Sheryl Baumann from TNAC

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Mr. Boynton followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Approval of Minutes**

Approval of the minutes from September 17, 2024 was tabled until the March 2025 meeting.

**TNAC Director's Report**

Ms. Baumann shared her report with the Commissioners (attached to the minutes) noting the following:

1. The Center has many activities scheduled.
2. The Center received word they received Town ARPA funding for the Grade Four Climate Change Program. Paperwork is being completed and they will start scheduling. Henkle will be a partner in this initiative. The Town set aside a portion of the funding for non-profits. They were looking for programmatic opportunities and this program qualifies. The NAA funding was not received but she has made a contact for next year and expects to be approved.
3. The Building Feasibility Study was discussed. Antinozzi Associates was approved as the architect and will be working with Mr. Estrada to draw up plans and a budget. Funding approved was for the initial drawings by the architect. Funding for the actual implementation of the plans will be done in association with the Town and Rina Bakalar. Since the building is a town building, the non-profit cannot pursue grants for the project. Ms. Bakalar will allow TNAC to help write the narratives for the grants as they have done in the past. Ms. Baumann is pleased the Town is considering upgrading the space from a residential house to a nature center building to accommodate their programs. Ms. Baumann will speak with Ms. Shufrin regarding grant opportunities including the NAA as they will provide funding for energy improvements.

**Old Business**

1. Update – TNAC Building and Grounds - Ms. Baumann noted there are a couple of areas of the building that were brought to the attention of the Town but nothing critical. They will be addressing signage.
2. Update – Five-Year Capital Plan – no further discussion.

**New Business**

1. Discussion and Approval of Meeting Dates for 2025 – quarterly dates were approved for 2025. Meetings will continue to be held on ZOOM.
2. The Annual Meeting of the Patrons will be held on February 1 at 11:00 am. The Commission members are invited. Invitations will be sent in January.
3. Discussion was held regarding a Commissioner being a member of TNAC. Ms. Baumann will send a copy of the TNAC Bylaws to the Commission for their information. This selection will be made at a future date.

**Next Meeting**

March 18, 2025 by ZOOM.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, motion was made by Ms. Laracca to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 pm. Seconded by Mrs. Shufrin and approved by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall  
Clerk

**Patrons of the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center**  
**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 110438, Trumbull, CT 06611  
**Street Address:** 7115 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611



Subject: Report to Nature Commission: March 2025

### **TNAC Building and Grounds**

- Building
  - o Earlier this month, there were two issues:
    - Lack of heat in the building: the Town had repaired
    - Running toilet in small bathroom: the Patrons repaired
- Grounds
  - o No update

### **Town of Trumbull – TNAC Building Feasibility Study and Preliminary Design**

- Antinozzi Associates provided initial drawings for the Building Feasibility Study and Preliminary Design
  - o After several iterations, the Patrons are close to moving ahead with recommending two layouts for the interior of the building
    - Antinozzi will be providing color renderings for two interior options and one exterior option

### **Corporate and Community Partnerships**

- Goodwill and Kennedy Collective volunteers will start again in spring 2025
- TNAC will be participating in the Trumbull Farmers Market May 22 and September 25; Arts Festival September 14
  - o Other community activities TBD
- The Patrons will be participating in the Bridgeport Regional Business Council Engage & Grow Expo on March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Total Mortgage Arena in Bridgeport, 1pm – 5pm
  - o The Expo will expose TNAC to over 100 businesses in the region
- The Trumbull Mamas will be holding their annual photo shoot at TNAC on May 4<sup>th</sup>
- The Patrons will participate in the Long Hill Garden Club plant sale on May 10<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall

### **Fundraising**

- State of CT ARPA \$100,000 grant
  - o This grant is being spent down and must be fully expended by 12-31-26
- Town of Trumbull ARPA funding for non-profits – Round 2
  - o The Patrons were awarded this \$4,700 grant
    - Grant will be funding an in-school program on Climate Change for Trumbull elementary school grade 4 students
- Grant seeker
  - o The Patrons contracted with a Grant Professional to identify potential grantors
    - She will present her findings to the Patrons later this month

### **Environmental Education Programs**

- 2025 YTD Statistics:
  - o 25 Educational programs completed
  - o 54 Educational programs scheduled (through June 2025)
    - Of those, 31 Programs completed or scheduled for Trumbull students (through June 2025)
  - o 3 Seasonal (family) programs completed

- 16 Seasonal (family programs scheduled (through June 2025)
- The Patrons are providing a Sustainable STEM program to approximately 20 Trumbull High School students during an 8-weeek after school program
  - This is a Henkel grant-funded program

### **Seasonal Programs**

- Winter/Spring programs are in progress
  - See following pages

### Patrons of TNAC Annual Meeting

- The Patrons presented their annual report on February 1, 2025
  - The 2024 annual report can be downloaded from our website:
    - [Trumbullnatureandartscenter.org/about](http://Trumbullnatureandartscenter.org/about)

Submitted by:

Sheryl Baumann

Director

Patrons of the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center

Phone: 203-452-4421

Email: [sbaumann@trumbullnatureandartscenter.org](mailto:sbaumann@trumbullnatureandartscenter.org)

*2025 Winter/Spring Program Flyer on next 2 pages*



7115 Main Street (Route 25), Trumbull  
trumbullnatureandartscenter.org

## TNAC Winter/Spring Program Registration is Open Now!

Hands-on activities and animal encounters will have everyone learning and having fun, whether its outdoor experiences, animal encounters, or crafting.

Registration on our website is required for most programs:  
[trumbullnatureandartscenter.org](http://trumbullnatureandartscenter.org)



### MAKE YOUR OWN MINI ECOSYSTEM

**Saturday, February 22, 10:30am - 12:00pm**

- Kids will use natural materials to create self-contained environments in a jar. They'll observe changes over time, including the water cycle.

Brought to you by Trumbull Community Women and the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center.

**For families with children ages 3 - 8**

**Cost: Free**

Registration required



### MAPLE SUGARING DEMO & TASTING

**Saturday, March 1 Two sessions:**

**11:00am - 11:45am and 12:00pm - 12:45pm**

- Learn how maple trees are tapped, and watch as the sap runs from our majestic sugar maple tree.
- We'll take a short walk to the fire pit to observe the evaporation process. All participants will get to taste a sample of real Connecticut maple syrup.

**Fun for all ages**

**Cost: \$20 per family**

Registration required (one registration per family of 5)



### RODENT FRIENDS

**Saturday, March 8, 11:00am - 12:00pm**

- Join us for a fun-filled morning of learning about cute, small rodents! Kids will meet friendly animals, learn about their habitats, and even get a chance to interact with them safely.
- Animals include: guinea pigs, chinchilla, prairie dogs, hamsters, gerbils, and rats. Animal facts handout included.

**For ages 4 and up**

**Cost: \$5 per person**

Registration required



### ST. PATRICK'S DAY RAINBOW SEARCH AND TAKE HOME CLOVER POT

**Saturday, March 15**

**Two sessions:**

**11:00am - 11:45am and 12:00pm - 12:45pm**

- Find the 7 colors of the rainbow using a special map along our trails. At each stop you'll find objects that have significance in Irish culture and history.
- Families will receive lucky clover seeds, potting soil and a small pot to decorate and take home. One clover kit will be given to each family, along with "gold" coins for the wee ones.

**Fun for all ages**

**Cost: \$20 per family**

Registration required (one registration per family of 5)



### SCALY LIZARD FRIENDS

**Saturday, March 29, 11:00am - 12:00pm**

- Discover the fascinating world of lizards! Kids will meet amazing reptiles, learn about their unique adaptations, and even have a chance to safely interact with some of these incredible creatures.

• Animals include: gargoyle gecko, leopard gecko, bearded dragon, iguana, ackie monitor, fire skink, blue tongue skink

**For ages 4 and up**

**Cost: \$5 per person**

Registration required



### TRUMBULL COMMUNITY WOMEN PAPER SHREDDING EVENT - FREE

**Saturday, April 5, 9:00am - 1:00pm, Rain or Shine**

- The Trumbull Community Women's semi-annual shredding event, until 1:00pm or the truck fills-up.
- Please bring only those documents that have sensitive information such as bank statements, tax returns, etc.
- Please do not include junk mail that can be put in your regular recycling.



### TNAC TRAIL TALES: "ONE SMALL PLACE IN A TREE"

**Saturday, April 12, 10:00am - 11:00am**

- We'll take a walk along the TNAC trails to read each page of the children's book, "One Small Place in a Tree" by Barbara Brenner, as we look for TNAC's very own den tree!
- After our walk, children will make pine cone bird feeders.

**For ages 3 - 8, plus caregiver**

**Cost: \$5 per person**

Registration required



### 4TH ANNUAL EARTH DAY FAMILY CELEBRATION

**Saturday, April 26, 11:00am - 2:00pm  
(rain date April 27)**

- **Furry Scaly Friends** See some cute critters, including an axolotl, small mammals and reptiles!

• **Bartlett Tree Experts** Touch-a-truck and photo opportunity, plus free tree seedlings and other giveaways.

• **Long Hill Garden Club** Free flower and veggie seeds, free houseplant cuttings, free marigold seedlings, garden club and family farming info, and a kids craft.

• **Master Gardener Pam Roman** will be on-hand to answer your gardening questions.

• **TNAC craft** Kids can make and decorate a fun flying butterfly.

**Fun for all ages**

**Cost: FREE, donations welcome**

Registration required





## FAMILY ART PROJECT: MAKE A SPRING WREATH

**Saturday, May 3, 10:00am - 12:00pm**

- Design and create your own front door wreath using grapevines, faux flowers, ribbons, and more. Each one is as unique as its creator can imagine.

**For families with children 7 and up**

**Cost: \$20 per family (One wreath per program registration)**

**Registration required**



## SCIENCE ADVENTURE TRAIL

**Saturday, May 17**

**Two sessions: 10:00am - 11:00am and 11:00am - 12:00pm**

- On the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center's Science Adventure Trail you'll use a custom map, guidebook, and science tool kit as you navigate your way to trail stops to conduct hands-on activities. A fun way to learn environmental science while spending time outdoors!
- The Science Adventure Trail leads to 10 fun trail stops and takes about an hour to complete.
- Each registration includes one science toolkit and map to borrow, plus activities to make and take, and an interactive guidebook.

**For ages 6 and up**

**Cost: \$25 per family**

**Registration required (one registration per family of 5)**



## SLITHERY FRIENDS

**Saturday, May 31, 11:00am - 12:00pm**

- Kids will meet a variety of snakes, discover their unique adaptations, and even have a chance to safely interact them.

- Animals include: corn snake, ball pythons, milk snake, sand boa, king snake and hognose snake

**For ages 4 and up**

**Cost: \$5 per person**

**Registration required**

Funding provided by the grant-in-aid, legislative earmark administered by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact us at (860) 418-5910 or [deep.accommodations@ct.gov](mailto:deep.accommodations@ct.gov) if you: have a disability and need a communication aid or service; have limited proficiency in English and may need information in another language; or if you wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint. Any person needing a hearing accommodation may call the State of Connecticut relay number - 711. Requests for accommodations must be made at least two weeks prior to any agency hearing, program or event.



To register, or for more info, snap a photo:



## About the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center

- The Trumbull Nature & Arts Center (TNAC) is a non-profit organization that provides environmental education field trips, in-school visits, family programs, and scouting workshops to Trumbull and the greater Bridgeport region.
- We offer volunteer opportunities. Visit our website to see how you can get involved!
- We're located on 11+ acres of diverse habitats, including trails, pond, stream, gardens and playground. Grounds are open year-round, from dawn to dusk.

TNAC is supported by the Patrons of the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.  
[trumbullnatureandartscenter.org](http://trumbullnatureandartscenter.org) | [contact@trumbullnatureandartscenter.org](mailto:contact@trumbullnatureandartscenter.org) | 203.452.4421



## FISHING 101

**Saturday, June 7, 9:00am - 12:00pm**

- Instructor John Saccone will discuss fishing equipment and how it should be used safely.

- Learn how to choose the right bait, and where to find the best local fishing areas.
- The various types of rods and reels for different types of fishing will be explained.
- Practice fishing at the TNAC pond.
- Bring your own equipment, if available. Instructor will teach you how to use the equipment you may already own.
- Some equipment will be available to borrow.

**For families with children ages 6 and up**

**Cost: Free, donations welcome**

**Registration required**



## CT TRAILS DAY

**Saturday, June 7, 9:45am - 12:30pm**

**Rain Date Sunday, June 2**

- Location: Trumbull park location to be announced. Please check [ctwoodlands.org](http://ctwoodlands.org) for updates.

- Join TNAC, the Trumbull Historical Society, and hundreds of hikers across Connecticut on this annual hike.

- No strollers, dogs on leashes allowed.

**For all ages**

**Cost: Free**

**No registration required**



## GREAT FIREFLY ROUNDUP!

**Saturday, June 14, 8:00pm - 10:00pm**

- Kids will create a glowstick firefly as they learn fascinating facts about firefly flash patterns and the light shows they make all summer long.

- Families will use nets and jars as they search for fireflies to catch and release.

**For families with children ages 4 and up**

**Cost: \$20 per family**

**Registration required**



## INTRO TO ARCHERY

**Saturday, June 21, 9:00am - 11:00am**

- This program is led by experienced CT DEEP instructors on TNAC's great lawn.

- All participants will have multiple opportunities to shoot arrows using beginner archery equipment.

- Instructors will work with each child to improve aim and accuracy.

**For children ages 7 and up**

**Cost: Free**

**Registration required**