Trumbull Nature Commission Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, March 17, 2025
7:00 pm

ZOOM

Agenda

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments

Approve Minutes – December 2, 2025

TNAC Q&A

1. Commission Questions/Comments Regarding Written Director Report

Old Business

New Business

Next Meeting – June 16, 2026

Adjournment

Trumbull Nature Commission Regular Meeting
Mar 17, 2026 7:00 PM
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87814428194?pwd=2NYQ8ia77PXKOaPOUW4cP0OSrYtFqr.1
Webinar ID: 878 1442 8194
Password: 928529

Join by telephone: (646) 931-3860 / Webinar ID: 878 1442 8194

Trumbull Nature Commission Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, December 2, 2025
7:00 pm

Present: Chairman Jack Boynton, Emily Shufrin, Olia Yelner and Karen Laracca

Also Present: Sheryl Baumann and Kevin Malone from TNAC

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Mr. Boynton followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment
No public comment.

Approval of Minutes
Motion was made by Ms. Laracca to approve the minutes of September 3, 2025. Seconded by Mrs. Shufrin and approved with an abstention from Ms. Yelner.

Election of Chairman
Ms. Laracca nominated Mr. Boynton as Chairman for 2026. Seconded by Mrs. Shufrin and approved by unanimous consent.

TNAC Director's Report
Ms. Baumann highlighted the following from her report:

1. Building and Grounds – both front and back spigots were replaced; flashing around the exterior has not been done.
2. The cost of the building remodel has been received. At this time, the Town is prioritizing other projects. The Patrons have a meeting in January with the First Selectman and they will bring this project up at that time for discussion.
3. Henkel Day was a success.
4. The Patrons received $50,000 from the FY 2026 Legislative Allocation. Contract has been executed with all signatures and they expect the funding soon. The major impact will be the educational exhibits. These will be new to the program. They received an estimate for replacement lighting in the front hallway, rooms on the left and right and the hanging light over the sink. This will make the visitor experience better. The vendor chosen is an approved vendor for the Town. Mr. Paris is on board with the project. There was a question regarding requisitions and payments. Mr. Paris is looking into the proper procedure to be followed. The funding is coming from the Connecticut State Legislature and administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Mrs. Shufrin suggested contacting Ms. Bakalar at the Town Hall regarding proper procedure or the DECD for guidance. Ms. Baumann will wait for Mr. Paris to respond and will make further inquiries, if necessary.
5. Consideration is being given to what type of displays will be included. Topics being discussed include the grounds and explanatory displays about pond, meadow and forest, natural history of Trumbull that could be an interesting collaboration with the Historical Society and a bio-

mimickery display on how people can learn from science and nature for invention. These types of programs would enhance the programs already in place and would be available in the Center for those attending field trips and programs.

6. Waiting to hear back from Horizon Foundation.
7. Scheduling for winter and spring with seasonal and educational programs is underway.
8. Annual Patrons meeting is February 7. Board members will be invited to attend.
9. New Board members are being brought on.
10. Discussing the potential of including arts in their programming.
11. Remaining ARPA funding is slightly over $72,000. The funds were budgeted and allocated with total expenditure of funds required by December 2026.
12. Two new part-time instructors have been brought on. One will focus on the younger kids and the other grades 4-5. They will also provide some administrative assistance.

Old Business

No Old Business.

New Business

1. Discussion and Approval of Meeting Dates for 2026 – **motion was made by Ms. Laracca to approve the following quarterly meeting dates for 2026 – Tuesday, March 17, June 16, September 15, and Thursday, December 10. Seconded by Mrs. Shufrin and approved by unanimous consent.** All meetings will be held by ZOOM.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Ms. Laracca to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 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 2026

TNAC Building and Grounds

- Building
  - As of this report, the Town of Trumbull has not yet repaired the broken and missing flashing and gutters
    - I was told on March 11th that the issues would be looked at soon.
  - Building interior
    - Using the State of CT FY26 Legislative allocation, these projects were completed:
      - Replaced old ceiling lights were removed and new lighting installed
        - Recessed lighting and dimmer switches in front room and classroom
        - Recessed light in entryway
        - Light over sink in small bathroom
  - Painting projects
    - Front room
      - Ceiling painted
      - Drywall installed and walls painted in preparation for an educational display project
    - Classroom
      - Ceiling
        - Water damage repaired
        - Ceiling painted
- Grounds
  - A "parking area" was cleared of snow after the two snow storms
    - This led to the turf being pushed to the sides
      - Will need to be repaired in the spring

Town of Trumbull – TNAC Building Feasibility Study and Preliminary Design

- This stage of the project is complete
  - The TNAC building remains in Town's 5-year capital plan with a $100,000 placeholder so that it could be considered for funding at a time to be determined

Corporate and Community Partnerships

- We anticipate that:
  - Henkel Corporation will be holding a volunteer day at TNAC at least once this year
  - M&T Bank will be holding a volunteer day at TNAC this year

Fundraising

- State of CT FY26 Legislative allocation
    - The Patrons received the first $50,000 of the two-year biennial grant
        - The allocation is funding the following projects, through June 30, 2026:
            - Landscaping services
            - Seasonal Programs
            - A portion of contracted services and operating expenses
            - Facilities and Equipment
                - Visitor space improvements, visitor exhibits
                - Groundskeeping equipment if funds are available
- Horizon Foundation
    - The Patrons received a $10,000 grant to develop and implement two new programs:
        - Nature Together!
            - A "mommy & me" once-a-week, 6-week program designed to engage young children and their caregivers in learning outdoors
        - Nature & Nostalgia
            - A sensory-based program for residents of seniors in care settings
- State of CT ARPA $100,000 allocation
    - As of November 21, 2025, there is $61,818 remaining of the allocation
        - The Patrons expect to have depleted the funds as required by the December 31, 2026 deadline
- Town Fair Tire
    - Awarded a $7,500 grant
- Other
    - Both the Henkel Corporation and the Kashulon Foundation have invited TNAC to apply for grants again this year

Environmental Education and Family Programs

- In 2025, the Patrons provided programs to:
    - 6,311 educational and family program participants
- 2026
    - See page 4 and 5 for the family program flyer
    - Educational programs are in full swing through the end of the school year

Patrons of TNAC Nonprofit Update

- The Patrons' Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, February 7, 2026
- The Patrons installed three new board members
    - Trumbull residents:
        - Leyla Fayyaz, Ruth Fontilla, Bruce Horan
- Volunteer Hours
    - In 2025, volunteers dedicated 968 hours in support of TNAC
- Publicity
    - TNAC activities will be included in the First Selectman's newsletter
- Program Manager Assistant

- The Patrons are in the process of contracting with a candidate for this role

Submitted by:
Sheryl Baumann
Director
Patrons of the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center
Phone: 203-452-4421
Email: sbaumann@trumbullnatureandartscenter.org

Spring 2026 Program Flyer on Pages 4 and 5

TRUMBULL Nature & Arts Center

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

TNAC Winter/Spring Program Registration is Open Now!

- **TNAC programs offer something for everyone—from crafting and adventuring on unique hikes, to learning new skills. Be sure to join us for a festive Earth Day celebration, featuring the grand opening of our Free Little Art Gallery!**
- **Registration on our website is required for most programs: trumbullnatureandartscenter.org**



PINECONE BONSAI TREE WORKSHOP

Saturday, February 28, 10:30am - 12:00pm

At this Trumbull Community Women led program, children and caregivers will go on a nature walk on the TNAC trails to look for different types of pine trees. Next, they'll assemble their own adorable planters to take home, using pinecone seeds and decorations.

For families with children ages 3 - 8
Cost: Free
Registration required



MAPLE SUGARING DEMO & TASTING

Saturday, March 7 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)



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

Saturday, March 14 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)



HOCUS POCUS LOTIONS & POTIONS

Saturday, March 21, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Instructor Vanessa Fasanella will explain why essential oils are used, and how to use them. She'll cover both the myths and the facts. Each family will create one scented hand lotion, one sugar scrub, one elixir oil, and one bath salts, and will receive a hand-out sheet to take home.

For families with children ages 8+
Cost: $20 per family, up to 2 children (1 set of potions per family)
Registration required



TRUMBULL COMMUNITY WOMEN PAPER SHREDDING EVENT - FREE

Saturday, March 28, 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.

Cost: FREE, donations to TCW are welcome
Registration is not required



5TH ANNUAL EARTH DAY FAMILY CELEBRATION

Saturday, April 18, 11:00am - 2:00pm

Fun for families with children of all ages!

- **Furry Scaly Friends** See some cute critters, including an axolotl, small mammals and reptiles.
- **Avangrid Smart Energy Experience Mobile Exhibit** Kids will have fun learning all about energy.
- **United Illuminating** table with helpful giveaways.
- **Long Hill Garden Club** Free flower and veggie seeds, free houseplant cuttings, garden club and family farming info, and a kids craft.
- **Garden Kits Giveaway** provided by **Verizon Wireless**. Each kit contains plant pots, seeds, mini shovels and more.
- **Grand Opening of our Free Little Art Gallery** Make art, take art, leave art at this mini community art hub.
- Trumbull's own **Big G's cookies**.
- **TNAC craft** Kids can make and decorate a fun flying butterfly.

All giveaways are available while supplies last.

Fun for all ages
Cost: FREE, donations welcome
Registration recommended



SPRING SUNCATCHERS

Saturday, May 2, 10:00am - 11:30am

Choose your own design and create two unique suncatchers to display in your home. Learn how to organize the crystals and beads, and we'll show you how to tie the string. Leave with two complete suncatchers to add some sparkle to your spring!

For families with children 12 and up
Cost: $20 per family (Two suncatchers per program registration)
Registration required

OVER

SCIENCE ADVENTURE TRAIL

Two Dates, Four Sessions:
April 11 and June 13
10:00am - 11:00am and 11:00am - 12:00pm

Take your family on a science exploration adventure! On this self-guided trail walk, you'll use a toolkit, easy-to-follow guidebook and map to locate unique trail stations. The whole family will conduct experiments and do fun activities along the way!

- Includes one toolkit per registration.
- Each toolkit contains experiment tools and a map to borrow.
- The guidebook, bird nest and animal track are yours to keep.
- Maximum of 5 people per registration.

Families with children ages 6+
Registration required
(one registration per family of 5)
Cost: FREE

Thank you to the Henkel Corporation for funding this program

To register for TNAC programs:
trumbullnatureandartscenter.org
or scan QR code at right:

Thank you to the M&T Bank Charitable Foundation
for supporting our family programs

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're located on 11+ acres of diverse habitats, including trails, pond, stream, gardens and playground. Grounds are open year-round, from dawn to dusk.



FISHING 101

Saturday, May 30, 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 6, 9:45am - 12:30pm
Rain Date Sunday, June 7

- Location: Trumbull park location to be announced. Please check 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



INTRO TO ARCHERY

Saturday, June 6, 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



GREAT FIREFLY ROUNDUP!

Saturday, June 20, 8:30pm - 9:30pm

- 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

CONNECTICUT

Funding has been provided by the Connecticut State Legislature and is administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development.