Trumbull Conservation Commission

TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT

Town Hall
5866 Main Street
Trumbull, Connecticut 06611

Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, April 1, 2026
7:00 pm
Long Hill Conference Room, Town Hall

AGENDA

Call to Order

Past Minutes – Approval of the January 28, 2026 Minutes

New Business

1. Spring Pollinator Giveaway
2. Sponsor Talk on Tree Care and Planting at Trumbuill Library
3. CT Native Tree, Shrub and Perennial Availability List.
    a. Connecticut Native Tree, Shrub, and Perennial Availability List

Old Business

1. Updates –
    a. State Forester Evaluation of Open Spaces – Mr. Coughlin
    b. Website Information – Ms. Laden/Ms. Giannelli
    c. Budget Meeting Update
    d. Vine Team Update – Mr. Lindsey
        i. Schedule for Team – Next Event April 18
2. Review and Discussion of IWWC Applications
3. Arbor Day Activity

Next Meeting – April 29, 2026

Adjournment

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5866 Main Street
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Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, January 28, 2026
Council Chambers – Trumbull Town Hall
7:00 pm

Present: Commissioners Tim Coughlin, Dean Lindsey, Kate Giannelli, Mark Schroeder and Sara Laden

Absent: John Massari

Also Present: Janet Epstein and Richard White

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by Mr. Coughlin.

Past Minutes
Motion made by Mr. Lindsey to approve the minutes of December 10, 2025; seconded by Mr. Schroeder and approved.

New Business

1. Mr. Coughlin noted a meeting is scheduled with the First Selectman and Director of Finance on February 2 to discuss Goals/Accomplishments and budget requests. He noted he would be keeping most of the same information for next year as well as budgeted amounts. Items discussed included
    a. Funding for attending meetings, conferences, or dues
    b. Funding for tools for various projects such as vine removal
    c. Funding for a mailing from the Commission to the Town residents . (Ms. Epstein reminded the Commission that the buffer brochures were hand delivered because of the expense which included printing.)
    d. Funding for tree planting will remain at $12,000.
    e. Funding for outreach/social media.
    f. Goal to increase volunteer participation in activities.
    g. Funding for grant writing for projects.
    h. Goal to reach residents through outreach as to proper planting of trees on private property.

Mr. Coughlin will make the adjustments as discussed.

2. An email was received and previously distributed to the Commission from a Trumbull resident that included some topics he is interested in the Commission considering. Mr. Coughlin requested any input be mailed to him. This individual is also interested in filling the open spot on the Commission and is currently being interviewed.
3. Discussion was held regarding information being placed on the Town website. The First Selectman has requested this be in narrative form or a small statement in the Conservation Commission sidebar. If interested, the information could be put into a newsletter format. Ms. Laden and Ms. Giannelli have been collaborating on what information and in what form this would be presented. Ms. Laden suggested to add a statement next month regarding cutting down trees and checking with Inland Wetlands. Mrs. Giannelli will contact Mrs. Zablocky with this information when she finalizes her list of changes to the website. After discussion, it was agreed to provide a statement to Mrs. Zablocky and present to the Commission the revised list of documents for review at the next meeting. It was felt the statement should include a reference to call Inland Wetlands for current regulations. Ms. Epstein noted there is a letter associated with the approved brochure regarding this topic that should be on the website explaining the process. There is also a program called the Right Tree Right Place that could be a resource.

Old Business

1. State Forster Evaluation of Open Spaces - Mr. Coughlin discussed the walk through of the Old Tashua Tree Farm with the State Forester. It was noted the area is covered with invasives. The next area to be reviewed is Beaches Park. Another letter will be sent from Mr. Paris to arrange a date in the Spring for this review. Mr. Massari provided maps of the Old Tashua Tree Farm which will be useful when walking the property to develop a management plan.
2. Vine Team Update – Mr. Lindsey noted the activity scheduled for January 31 is cancelled because of the deep snow pack. Information will be placed on FaceBook and the website to cancel and reschedule for March 7. The last two hour session was successful.
3. Review and Discussion of IWWC Applications – Discussion was held regarding the application for Plum Tree Lane. Public hearing was conducted; waiting for a decision.

   Ms. Epstein spoke on Application 25-43, 201 Old Dike Road and the questioned if anything was determined at the site walk . Mr. Coughlin noted the site walk was not conducted because of the snow. Trying to identify the amount of tree coverage and concerned about the quality of the work on the property. Discussion was held regarding the remediation and how the Town deals with non-compliance with regulations.

4. Arbor Day Activity – Discussion was held regarding the Commission planting a tree for the event. Ideas for location should be brought to the next meeting for discussion. Mr. Coughlin will contact the individual who plans Arbor Day activities for discussion of this initiative with them. Ms. Laden suggested information could be disseminated to residents about planting a tree before Arbor Day and include their pictures on the website. It was noted trees can be planted all year round and have a better chance of survival if planted in the Spring. Arbor Day is April 24, 2026.

Public Comment

Richard White, 169 Church Hill Road – spoke on two concerns:

1. Beryllium has been found in the dredging material in Katz Pond which has increased the disposal price of the project. Nothing similar has been found in any reports available. The Twin Brooks

project did not find Beryllium. It seems to be very specific to Katz Pond. It is not clear if it is naturally occurring. Questioned if anyone had approached the Commission for their input and investigation with DEEP. If it is not naturally occurring, the Town should not be responsible for the added cost of disposal.

2. The Town Council, in the Capital Improvement Plan, discussed the possibility of reconsidering the properties at Hardy Lane and Grace Church for a proposed new senior center as well as Priscilla Place for a tear down or like new renovation. The Phase ll done for Hardy Lane, in his opinion and that of the architect, was not complete, as it did not go far enough down the slope and did not go past where contaminated soils were found. It didn't go to the appropriate depth to find the extent of the materials. Is encouraging the Town Council to include testing for Beryllium at this location as well as asbestos due to the nature of the materials that were found.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Schroeder to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm. Seconded by Mr. Lindsey and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk