

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

ZOOM

Agenda

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments

Approve Minutes December 17, 2024 and March 12, 2025

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. Letter to Representative Rutigliano Regarding Grants

New Business

1. Next Meeting – September 16, 2025

Adjournment

Trumbull Nature Commission Regular Meeting
Jun 17, 2025 7:00 PM
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89099135876?pwd=0ZOU5pEp7oxQdqpliD5XPRwZweWJy.1>
Webinar ID: 850 4077 9987
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Trumbull Nature Commission Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, March 12, 2025
7:00 pm

Present: Chairman Jack Boynton, Emily Shufrin and Olia Yelner

Absent: Karen Laracca

Also Present: Sheryl Baumann 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. Yelner to approve of the minutes from September 17, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Boynton and approved with abstention from Mrs. Shufrin.

Approval of the December 17, 2024 minutes was tabled until March.

TNAC Director's Report

Ms. Baumann noted the following from her report:

1. TNAC decided on two drawings to be given to the architect and are waiting for interior and exterior views.
2. TNAC will be participating in the Bridgeport Regional Business Council Expo on March 20.
3. Actively looking for grants.

Mr. Boynton stated he was very impressed with the Annual Report to the TNAC Board from their annual meeting.

Discussion was held regarding information to be distributed at the Expo regarding volunteer and corporate involvement in TNAC. Mrs. Shufrin will discuss with Ms. Baumann and provide talking points to use.

4. Town Fair Tire gave a \$2,500 donation.

Unknown when the architect drawings will be completed. Cost estimates will also be provided that could change the plans.

5. Repair to the heating system was completed by the Town; repair of the running water in the bathroom was completed by the Patrons. A broken trail sign will either be replaced or repaired by the Patrons.

Old Business

1. Update – TNAC Building and Grounds – previously discussed.
2. The Climate Change Program started in Bridgeport with Trumbull starting next week. They are receiving great feedback from the teachers. Program funding through ARPA.
3. TNAC is not in the current round of State appropriations. The \$100,000 grant was received up front so they have the funding. The \$35,000 grant from DEEP will be available as long as the funds are used by June 30, 2025. The State is looking to recoup some of the funding but these two grants will be fulfilled as promised.
4. Mrs. Shufrin discussed a letter to be written jointly by TNAC and the Nature Commission to Representative David Rutigliano regarding funding, his past help and future assistance in securing grants for TNAC. The letter has been drafted and is being reviewed
5. Update – Architectural Plans and Budget for Building Remodel – previously discussed.
6. Grant Opportunities – previously discussed. Any grant opportunities should be forwarded to Ms. Baumann. At this time, corporations and foundations will be her focus.
7. Nature Commissioner on TNAC Board – this position was removed from the TNAC Charter.

New Business

No new business.

Next Meeting

June 17, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Mrs. Shufrin to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 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: June 2025

TNAC Building and Grounds

- Building
 - o Flashing fell off the building or is bent in places and the outdoor spout at the back of the building continues to leak
 - The Town has been notified
 - Repairs yet to be completed
- Grounds
 - o The bulk of a groundskeeping project has been completed
 - Invasive plant species were removed from the meadow and around the pond
 - Native plant species were planted to replace removed plants

Town of Trumbull - TNAC Building Feasibility Study and Preliminary Design

- The Patrons reviewed color rendering provided by Antinozzi Associates
 - o Antinozzi made recommended revisions to the rendering
 - o The Patrons met with Paul Lisi of Antinozzi and their Cost Estimator
 - Costs will be provided for alternate versions of the building, as well as additional line items

Corporate and Community Partnerships

- Henkel Corporation held a Volunteer Day on 6-11-25
 - o Henkel employees completed needed tasks including weeding, planting, installation of additional flyer holder and chalk holder, installation of paper towel holder in second bathroom, etc.
- Unilever is tentatively scheduled to hold a Volunteer Day on 6-25-25
- Goodwill vocational program participants are volunteering on Tuesdays
- Kennedy Collective participants are volunteering on Fridays
 - o Participants perform needed tasks such as prepping field trip materials, weeding and watering gardens, light building cleaning
- TNAC participated in the Trumbull Farmers Market May 29
 - o Other upcoming community events:
 - September 25; Trumbull Farmers Market
 - September 14: Arts Festival
 - Other community activities TBD
- The Patrons participated in the Bridgeport Regional Business Council Engage & Grow Expo on March 20th at the Total Mortgage Arena in Bridgeport
- The Patrons participated in the Health Fair at Madison Middle School on 4-25-25
- The Patrons participated in the Long Hill Garden Club plant sale on May 10 at Town Hall
- Two Trumbull High School students continue to volunteer for the Patrons
 - o One student is the Patrons' business intern
 - o One student is the Patrons' marketing intern

Fundraising

- Henkel Corporation
 - o Awarded the Patrons a \$10,000 grant

- Grant will be funding Sustainable STEM program for high school students as well as the Climate Change program for 4th grade students in both Trumbull and Bridgeport
- Werth Family Foundation
 - Awarded the Patrons a \$5,000 grant
- State of CT ARPA \$100,000 grant
 - This grant continues to be spent down and must be fully expended by 12-31-26
- Grant writing professional
 - The grantwriter presented several opportunities
 - The contract with her is complete

Environmental Education and Seasonal Programs

- TNAC will be providing at least 12 grant-funded field trips to City of Bridgeport Lighthouse participants in July
 - TNAC will be giving six Trumbull High School students part-time assistant instructor positions to help at these, and other field trips this summer
 - A student training day will be held on June 30
- TNAC will be providing a new program, "Accessible Nature Exploration" to program participants at St. Vincent's Special Needs Services
- 2025 YTD Statistics:
 - 3,775 participants in Educational programs
 - 646 participants in Seasonal programs
- 54 Educational programs scheduled (through June 2025)
 - Of those, 31 Programs completed or scheduled for Trumbull students (through June 2025)
 - 3 Seasonal (family) programs completed
 - 16 Seasonal (family) programs scheduled (through June 2025)
- Seasonal Program planning is in progress and will be confirmed in the coming weeks

Submitted by:

Sheryl Baumann

Director

Patrons of the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center

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