

Trumbull Nature Commission Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, September 3, 2025
7:00 pm

ZOOM

Agenda

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments

Approve Minutes - December 17, 2024 and June 17, 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

New Business

1. Next Meeting – December 9, 2025

Adjournment

Trumbull Nature Commission Regular Meeting

Sep 3, 2025 7:00 PM

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86916411513?pwd=NvvPhdkaLzbnWeiZx1ZLLc2ekRXoR.1>

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

Present: Chairman Jack Boynton, Emily Shufrin and Olia Yelner

Absent: Karen Laracca

Also Present: Sheryl Baumann and Kevin Malone from TNAC

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mr. Boynton followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the December 17, 2024 minutes was tabled until September. Ms. Crandall noted one correction – Commissioners present should be Jack Boynton, Emily Shufrin and Karen Laracca; absent Olia Yelner.

Approval of the March 12, 2025 minutes – Ms. Crandall noted one correction – Approval of the December minutes was deferred until June. **Motion was made by Mrs. Shufrin to approve the minutes as amended; seconded by Ms. Yelner and approved by unanimous consent.**

TNAC Director's Report

Ms. Baumann highlighted the following from her report:

1. The Center had a very successful year with new programs being implemented.
2. ARPA funding was used for the Grade 4 program that worked out very well. Henkel will provide funding for next years' program.
3. Working on summer programs including one for St. Vincent's Special Needs where they have developed a custom program. Ms. Baumann noted field trip surveys are positive from the teachers and attendees.
4. TNAC will not be attending Trumbull Day but has increased their presence at other locations such as two Farmer's Markets, Trumbull Arts Festival, the Fall Festival and Madison Middle School Health Fair.
5. Participated in the BRBC event at Harbor Yard Arena.
6. Grant funding was reviewed. Noted there is steep competition for private foundational grants. Funding for TNAC is in the State budget but cannot find its location or amount in the budget. Senator assured her funding has been approved.
7. Preparing fall programs and waiting responses on several grants for funding those programs.
8. Gutters, flashing and a broken water valve have not been addressed by the Town. The roof was repaired and flashing installed in the back but it has fallen off with another piece on the side of

the building missing. The valve constantly leaks unless the water is turned off in the basement. Volunteers and students use the outside water so it needs to be repaired.

Mr. Boynton noted it was good to see the community partners increasing. Mrs. Baumann indicated it has not led to an increase in funding at this time.

9. Still waiting for responses from M&T and First County Bank regarding grants.
10. Mr. Malone recently completed the Sustainable STEM program for high school students. There were 19 participants who worked on sustainability plans and received scholarships paid for by Henkel. Henkel has provided funding for next year.
11. TNAC will be hiring six Trumbull High School students to help with the field trips during the summer. Training will be held at the end of June.
12. Mr. Malone will send his report on the Sustainable STEM program to the Commissioners when it is completed.

Old Business

1. Update – TNAC Building and Grounds – Mrs. Shufrin is concerned the Town has not responded to the request to repair the gutters, flashing and a broken water valve that is an integral part of some of the programs at the Center. Not addressing these problems could cause further damage to the building. Ms. Baumann indicated she sent emails to the Town, the last being on April 28, regarding the flashing. An action plan needs to be developed to keep on track with the repairs. Ms. Baumann will send another email regarding the repairs, copying the Commissioners. If no response is received, additional action will be taken.
2. Update – Architectural Plans and Budget for Building Remodel – Ms. Baumann discussed proposed conceptual drawings from the architect. A cost estimate for the project should be received in July or August. Mr. Estrada requires this information to place the project on the Capital Five-Year Plan. Mrs. Shufrin offered assistance with documents to help move this project forward.
3. Grant Opportunities – previously discussed.
4. Letter to Representative Rutigliano Regarding Grants – letter sent; no response.

New Business

1. Next Meeting – The September 16 meeting was changed to Wednesday, September 3.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Ms. Yelner to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 pm. Seconded by Mrs. Shufrin and approved by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk

Patrons of the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center

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Subject: Report to Nature Commission: September 2025

TNAC Building and Grounds

- Building
 - o The Town of Trumbull has been made aware of the flashing and outdoor spout issues
 - TNAC was told that the flashing and the outdoor spout issues would be addressed in the new fiscal year
- Grounds
 - o The meadow, gardens, pond edge and hiking trails continue to be maintained
 - Work is being done by volunteers and a paid groundskeeper
 - o The sunflower garden has been well-tended and is beginning to bloom
 - The flowers should be ready for the September 20 Sunflower Seed Harvest program

Town of Trumbull - TNAC Building Feasibility Study and Preliminary Design

- The cost estimate has been delayed due to the sudden passing of the cost estimator, Richard Koczera
- Antinozzi Assoc. identified a new cost estimator
 - o The cost estimate was due to come in to the architect by August 15, and then reviewed by their firm
 - Waiting to hear back

Corporate and Community Partnerships

- Henkel Corporation is scheduled to hold their Community Impact Day at TNAC on October 9, 2025
 - o The tentative project list includes (pending budget approval, as we applied for a grant from Henkel to pay for the project materials: Repair of broken picnic tables, Re-cement the entire surface of the "hand wall" at the playground, clean-out sunflower garden, installation of TNAC Free Little Art Gallery
 - The Free Little Art Gallery will be similar to the Free Little Libraries
 - The space will display small art pieces that are donated by anyone who would like to contribute
 - o Members of the public are free to take any of the art
 - o Art supplies will be available so that people can make art at TNAC to add to the gallery
 - o Unilever needed to cancel their Volunteer Day on 6-25-25 due to extreme heat
 - They are planning on scheduling an alternate date
- 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 will be participating in these Town of Trumbull events:
 - o September 14: Arts Festival
 - o September 25: Trumbull Farmers Market
 - o October 26: Fall Festival

- TNAC hired six Trumbull High School students to work as assistant instructors at July field trips
 - o The students were trained to lead summer fun activities

Fundraising

- State of CT allocation
 - o We were informed by Senator Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox' office that the Patrons of TNAC are included in the FY26 – FY27 budget
 - The grant is listed under CT Economic Development Commission
 - Amount is \$50,000 per fiscal year
- M&T Bank Charitable Foundation
 - o Awarded the Patrons a \$2,500 grant for family programs
- State of CT ARPA \$100,000 grant
 - o This grant continues to be spent down and must be fully expended by 12-31-26

Environmental Education and Seasonal Programs

- TNAC provided 14 grant-funded field trips to 402 City of Bridgeport Lighthouse participants in July
- TNAC will be providing a new program, "Accessible Nature Exploration" to program participants at St. Vincent's Special Needs Services
- 2025 YTD Statistics:
 - o 4,567 participants in Educational programs
 - o 675 participants in Seasonal programs
- Seasonal Programs to be held this fall:
 - o 9-20-25 Sunflower Seed Harvest
 - o 9-27-25 Huneebees Project
 - o 10-4-25 Science Adventure Trail
 - o 10-11-25 Hocus Pocus Lotions & Potions
 - o 10-18-25 Trumbull Community Women Shredding Event
 - o 10-18-25 S'mores & Storytelling
 - o 10-25-25 Valley Hike with Historical Society
 - o 11-1-25 Creature Features with Furry Scaly Friends
 - o 11-8-25 Beaver Moon Night Hike
 - o 12-6-25 Blue Spruce Holiday Wreath Making

Submitted by:

Sheryl Baumann

Director

Patrons of the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center

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