

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT**



Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, January 29, 2020
7:00 pm
Council Chambers, Trumbull Town Hall

Present: Chairman Mary Ellen Lemay, Commissioners Tim Coughlin, Christopher McCormack, Kim DiCorpo

Commissioners Absent: Richard Post and Joanne Parsons

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Chairman Lemay.

Past Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Coughlin to approve the minutes of November 6, 2019 as written. Seconded by Mr. McCormack and approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Three Trumbull residents – Janet Epstein, Richard Ruby and Louise Perkins, presented an email to the Conservation Commission regarding the proposal to build a new aquatics facility in Beach Memorial Park. This email is attached to these minutes in its entirety.

The Commissioners discussed with the three residents their concerns regarding the location of this facility at Beaches Park. It was noted that Dimitri Paris has been involved in the discussions of the various prospective locations but it had not been brought before the Park and Rec Commission until the residents brought it up for discussion. There are alternative locations being considered including Tashua Knolls and Trumbull High School.

Mrs. Lemay noted that Jim Nordgren did a resource inventory of the property and incorporated this with the GIS site to see what would need to be done to build on this site. He noted that the wetlands designation is a larger area than initially expected. Soil samples have been taken to determine the extent of the wetlands. Storm water capacity is being determined as well as removal of several mature trees on the property. There are also flooding concerns on the property. The Board of Education has concerns about the Trumbull High School location for various reasons.

Public forums are being planned as well as a survey to all residents. It was suggested that it might be appropriate for the Conservation Commission to reach out to the Town Council to ascertain what level of coordination there is between the Parks & Recreation Commission, the Aquatics Committee and the

Town Council. If necessary, the Conservation Commission will draft an advisory letter to the Aquatics Committee requesting inclusion in the process.

Natural Resource Inventory

This is an on-going project.

Pollinator Pathway

Mrs. Lemay noted she has money in the budget to print a brochure on the Pollinator Pathway. The launch will be at the library on February 19. Discussion was held regarding native plants. These will be in the form of plugs which may be available from some of the local nurseries. This new industry was generated by the implementation of the Pathway. Mrs. Lemay noted that there is a \$1,000 grant from the Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists that she will apply for to promote the Pathway.

Sustainable Connecticut

Process is moving along.

Zoning Regulations

The regulations are still being reviewed. Mrs. Lemay would like to write a steep slope regulation based on a regulation from a town in New York State that is very similar to Trumbull.

Old Mine Park Kiosk

The kiosk was installed that was done by Don Watson.

Flyers

Mrs. DiCorpo will rework a letter that was sent to the residents living waterfront regarding the importance of vegetation at the water's edge.

The tree flyer done by Don Watson in 2017 can be used towards the Sustainable CT program.

LID (low impact development) information by Mrs. Parsons is ready to be distributed. Some of the town commissions are not aware of LID and Mrs. Lemay has a speaker that will do a workshop for the land use boards.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Coughlin to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 pm. Seconded by Mr. McCormack and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk

TO: Mary Ellen Lemay, Chair, and Members of the **Conservation Commission**
FROM: Janet Epstein, Old Dike Road; Leslie Jennings, Old Dike Road; Louise Perkins, Old Dike Road; Arthur H. Riley, Old Dike Road; Susann Gill Riley, Old Dike Road; **Richard Ruby**, Old Dike Road; **Stephanie Sudikoff**, Old Dike Road **SUBJECT: Proposal to Build a New Aquatics Facility in Beach Memorial Park** **DATE: January 28, 2020**

Overview The purpose of this document is to:

Express our concerns to the Conservation Commission (CC) regarding the **potential location of a new aquatic facility** at Trumbull's Beach Memorial Park (BMP) in light of the Commission's role **as a "science-based advisory commission that oversees the protection and supervision of natural resources in Trumbull."**

Request clarification from the Conservation Commission on its roles and responsibilities moving forward given the vote on Dec 12, 2019ii by the Aquatics Facility Building Committee (AC) to **"select Beach Memorial to recommend to Town Council as the preferred site on which to build an aquatics facility"**, keeping in mind the 1/23/20 AC vote to consider other **sites, as well.**

Request advice from CC on resident participation in the decision-making on this issue.

Request discussion and a copy of the natural resources inventory that was commissioned as it relates to BMP.

Background As long-standing residents of Trumbull, we believe that our town would benefit from a **new aquatic facility**. At the Jan 2, 2020 AC meeting, the architect's design **sited a two story** facility near the current pool with parking for 160+ vehicles. Many neighborhood **residents have expressed** concerns about the BMP site (e.g. see AC minutes of *11/7/19*, *1/2/20* and *1/23/20*, when available). Some of these concerns are listed below.

Concerns

Preserving the character of BMP, the surrounding neighborhood, and our Town: Our open spaces are finite resources that make Trumbull attractive to

residents and newcomers. Many residents consider Beach Memorial Park and the surrounding neighborhood to be **a treasured island of peace and quiet**. Placing the proposed facility in the park will fundamentally change its character and diminish its enjoyment by Trumbull residents. Beach's pool will be transformed from a town pool surrounded **by shady groves, picnic areas, and a well-loved toddler splash park** to a pool in the midst of a parking lot, **overshadowed** by a large building **regardless of whether** in its **current modern form or in character** with the neighborhood.

In addition, the park is home to foxes, bobcat, coyote, deer and other wildlife. The 2014 Trumbull Plan of Conservation and Development*'i* reflects our **values concerning** irreplaceable natural resources **and preserving the town's character**. **We are worried** about losing this precious natural habitat and about the precedent this development might set for further parkland exploitation. *We* believe the proposed aquatic facility which would be open 12 months a year with **associated noise** and light pollution is not **appropriate for a parkland setting** and does not belong in a quiet residential neighborhood.

Accessibility, Transportation, and Safety: The park is enjoyed by **walkers, dog** walkers, THS runners, cyclists and pool users. What will be the impact of **increased** traffic on these park users? *We* are worried about the potential need to install street lights as well as the potential for widening Beach Memorial Park Road requiring tree **clearing to accommodate more vehicle** traffic and for **pedestrian safety**. Parking is another concern. Current pool users park on Old Dike Road even when the designated parking lot is not full, creating **a safety** concern for residents given that **it is a narrow roadway; residents have made** calls to the Police Department about this. Exiting Hedgehog Road onto Daniels Farm Road is already problematic; the proposed facility will undoubtedly exacerbate this problem.

Protecting the environment: Beach Memorial Park and adjacent Twin Brooks Park **are flood prone**. **As** recently as Sept 2018, flood water filled Beach Pool with mud and flooded the parking area. The proposed site is surrounded by wetlands and the **proposed** facility and parking lot is located within the regulated **wetlands setback area**. **We understand that the town is responsible for the preservation and** protection of such **resources. IV**

Requests We respectfully ask the Commission to respond to the questions and concerns raised in the above comments, clarify the Commission's role going forward, and advise us on how we, and other like-minded residents, can contribute to the decision-making process on this issue.

We also request discussion of and a copy of the natural resources inventory, as it relates to BMP, that we understand was commissioned.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

<https://www.trumbull-ct.gov/406/Conservation-Commission> "<https://www.trumbull-ct.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Minutes/12122019-3841>" <https://www.trumbull-ct.gov/DocumentCenter/View/913/Plan-of-Conservation-and-Development-2014> PDF [iv https://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?Q=325682](https://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?Q=325682) <https://www.trumbull-ct.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1197/02-02-2010-Inland-Wetlands-and-Watercourses-Commission-Regulations-PDF> <https://www.trumbull-ct.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1156/Conservation-Commission-Supports-an-Undisturbed-100-Foot-Setback-Zone-from-Wetlands-and-Watercourses-PDF>