

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT**



Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, February 26, 2020
7:00 pm
Council Chambers, Trumbull Town Hall

Present: Chairman Mary Ellen Lemay, Commissioners Richard Post and Tim Coughlin

Commissioners Absent: Christopher McCormack, Kim DiCorpo and Joanne Parsons

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Lemay. No quorum present at this time.

Past Minutes

Approval of the minutes of January 29, 2020 was tabled until a quorum was present.

Calendar Updates

Due to a conflict on April 1, 2020, the next meeting of the Conservation Commission has been rescheduled to Tuesday, March 31, 2020.

Potential Commissioner John Massari introduced himself to the Commission noting, among other things, his background with the Connecticut Advisory Council which advises DEEP on environmental issues. Mrs. Lemay gave brief updates on the following as an overview of the Conservation Commission's objectives.

1. The Land Acquisition Committee has been re-activated and has begun to meet to review parcels within the town.
2. Natural Resource Inventory is being conducted in the town's open spaces including the Pequonnock River Valley. These areas have never been inventoried to look at the environmental content and value. It was noted that some funding may be available from the State for land acquisitions. This grant program is currently open on the State website. The NRI has been a top priority of the Commission and is required by the State.
3. The Pollinator Pathway has just been launched which encourages residents to change their landscape practices to include such initiatives as planting natives, avoiding pesticides and using organic compost. Over 85 towns participate in this program. The launch had 70-80 interested residents. They are working on a program at Wakeman's for Earth Day, 2/22/20. A variety of programs can be hosted under this initiative. Mr. Coughlin noted Planter's Choice in Newtown is anticipating a large increase in the demand for native plants under this initiative and the DOT requirements for natural plantings.

4. The Preemption bill is being discussed by the legislature. Currently, the use of pesticides is regulated by the State but this would give local governments the ability to regulate within their own towns. Information was forwarded to the First Selectman regarding this bill. Mrs. Lemay noted the new manager of Tashua Knolls is working towards using more organic products.
5. Sustainable CT is moving forward. The town should receive points for the launching of the Pollinator Pathway. An overview of the program was given including the point system. This initiative would give the town access to grant funding. An interim update to the Town will be given in April with a full report in the summer. They are working on outreach and education. Programs planned include Composting and Recycling on April 15 and a workshop conducted by the UCONN Land Use Academy on sustainable development. Mrs. Lemay is looking to have a program on April 16 for land use boards and town staff. This workshop would include what the State is doing for low impact development and understanding the practices and impact on the environment.
6. IWWC – Conservation works as an advisory commission to the land use boards and town staff.

Aquatic Facility was discussed. Harvey Mamrus from 45 W. Lake Road discussed his concern regarding the placement of the facility at Twin Books Park. He is concerned that the Town has removed the possibility of the placement of the facility at the Trumbull High/Hillcrest site as the BOE has cited they are not willing to have the facility on BOE property for reasons they would not disclose. This leaves only two sites for consideration which are Twin Brooks Park and the Tashua pool area. The Twin Brooks area is a concern with the wetlands and current flooding problems in the area. Parking spaces were significantly reduced. George Wiles, architect, has two renderings of the proposed facility which were to be presented. The public hearing for February 27 was cancelled. It was noted that a combined survey from the Senior Center Building Committee and the Aquatics Committee to residents is being developed but is still not ready for distribution.

Meeting was closed at 8:15 pm with no quorum present.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk