

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