Trumbull Nature Commission Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, March 17, 2026
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 7:08 pm by Mr. Boynton followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment
No public comment.

Approval of Minutes
Motion was made by Mrs. Shufrin to approve the minutes of December 2, 2025. Seconded by Ms. Yelner and approved unanimously.

TNAC Director's Report
Ms. Baumann highlighted the following from her report:

1. The Town has not addressed the problems with the building.
2. Patrons have completed replacement of lighting in the front room and classroom. Grant funds were used.
3. The ceilings of the two rooms are painted; the prep for the educational display to be installed has been completed. Additional grant money will be used to complete Stage 1 of that project.
4. TNAC is in the Capital Plan for FY27. This can be moved along, if necessary, but needs to be in the plan to receive certain grants.
5. TNAC is allocated to receive an additional $50,000 in the biennial grant.
6. Received a $10,000 grant from the Horizon Foundation and have developed two programs. One is for Mommy and Me called Nature Together!. This is limited to eight children and six are enrolled currently. Starts April 1 with additional sessions in the future. The other program is Nature & Nostalgia for memory impaired audiences. Met with one organization and they wanted to participate. She will be meeting with other organizations. The goal is to encompass all members of the community with programs.
7. The remaining ARPA funds will be spent by the end of the year.
8. Town Fair Tire awarded TNAC a $7,500 grant because they are sunsetting their foundation and gave three years' worth of funds.
9. Henkel and Kashulon Foundation requested TNAC to reapply for a grant.
10. Reached a record number of people last year over 6,200.
11. Three new TNAC Board members were appointed.
12. The Patrons are looking to expand the visual arts.

13. Earth Day program will be held on April 18. It will be a big program including UI with the new mobile unit on energy and other exciting events. The opening of the Little Free Art Gallery will be included. This is for make and take art. Approximately eleven high school students are helping at the event.
14. New business and marketing interns will be starting as the current students will be graduating.

Old Business
No Old Business.

New Business
1. The Nature Commission is looking for additional members. It is unknown whether a TNAC Board member can also serve on the Nature Commission. Ms. Baumann noted they received several inquiries about volunteering at the Center. She will contact them and see if they would consider a position on the Commission. Information will be passed to Mr. Boynton, if anyone is interested. Ms. Shufrin suggested Commissioners contact peers to see if they would be interested and provide information on what the Commission does. Would like to see the Commission be more supportive and impactful of TNAC.

Next Meeting
June 16, 2026 at 7:00 pm by ZOOM.

Adjournment
There being no further business, motion was made by Ms. Yelner to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 pm. Seconded by Mrs. Shufrin and approved by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk