

Trumbull Nature Commission Virtual Meeting  
Tuesday, June 16, 2020  
7:00 pm

**Present:** Chairman Emily Shufrin, Commissioners Jeffrey Kunkel, Jack Boynton and Helen Nordvall

Also Present: Sheryl Baumann and Kevin Malone from TNAC

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Mrs. Shufrin followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Past Minutes**

One correction to the minutes of January 14, 2020 was made by the clerk. Under Past Minutes it should read "Seconded by Mr. Boynton and approved unanimously." Motion was made by Mr. Kunkel to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Boynton and approved.

**TNAC Q&A**

Mrs. Baumann reviewed her Director's Report. Since the closure of the facility on March 11, only virtual programs were available to students. The complete TNAC update is attached to the minutes.

**Old Business**

1. Property Improvements – gutter repair has not been done. The ramp issue has been rectified and the mice mitigation has been completed.
2. Septic System – needs follow up with the Town. This has been brought to the attention of George Estrada who maintains the town facilities. No maintenance has been done since the property was purchased by the town and TNAC would like the system to be serviced. There is a septic odor in one of the bathrooms which is seldom used. Mr. Kunkel suspected dry traps and suggested flushing the drains with water to see if it resolves the issue.

**New Business**

1. Internet Installation – TNAC internet services were approved in the new budget and Mrs. Shufrin is working with Mr. Chin to install sometime after July 1.
2. COVID-19 Reopening Measures – Discussion was held regarding two options for opening the TNAC. These options included
  - a. opening the grounds for hiking
  - b. opening for full operation of the 501c3

After discussion, it was felt by the Commission that Mrs. Shufrin should contact Mr. Estrada regarding the Town plan for reopening of facilities. Although this is not a Town organization, the facility is maintained by the Town and would fall under their umbrella in this regard. As it is a park, it will be suggested that it be reopened for hiking only with no playground or bathroom facility usage. The 501c3 would work on the full opening of programs as recommended by

various state and local agencies. Concern was expressed about the ability to restrict the use to only hiking. It was noted that the Park Rangers would continue to patrol the grounds for security reasons. Mrs. Shufrin will discuss this with Mr. Estrada and obtain more detailed information.

3. Mr. Malone noted that Henkel would like to do a volunteer day in early July. Details will be discussed with the reopening committee by Mrs. Shufrin.
4. Mr. Boynton will be reappointed to the Commission when the Town reopens.
5. Mrs. Baumann noted they have volunteers who are maintaining the sunflower and butterfly gardens and they are following the current guidelines for social distancing.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Kunkel to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm. Seconded by Mr. Boynton and approved unanimously.

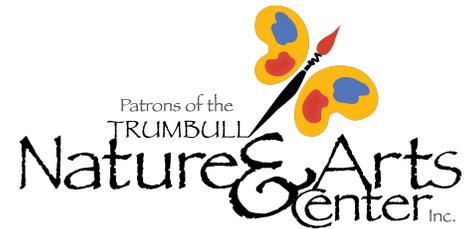
Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall  
Clerk

**Patrons of the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center**

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 110438, Trumbull, CT 06611

**Street Address:** 7115 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611



Subject: Report to Nature Commission: June 2020

**TNAC Building and Grounds:**

- Sunflower garden – has been planted and is being maintained by volunteers
- Butterfly garden- being maintained by volunteers
- Meadow habitat removal project continues.
- Flashing at back of building
  - o The missing roof edging has not yet been repaired
- Wifi
  - o Has been included in the 2020-21 budget

**Field Trips, In-School Visits and Programs:**

- As of March 11, 2020, all TNAC programs and were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

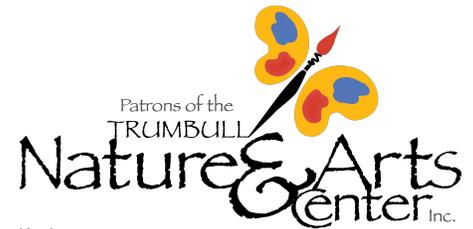
**Virtual Environmental Education:**

- TNAC has continued to provide environmental education throughout since March
- Activities are provided on TNAC's website
- Videos have been made, and are continued to be made
  - o TNAC Life Cycles: From Egg to Chicken 5-part video series
    - The videos were filmed for Kindergarten classes, and were tied to Trumbull schools' life cycles curriculum
    - Students from all 6 Trumbull elementary schools watched the videos, and the STEM director let us know how happy the students and teachers were with the videos
  - o Other videos included Signs of Spring, and Honeybees' New Home
  - o More videos will be filmed this summer
    - Pond Life
    - High School students Biology Club
      - Will be creating 4 videos for summer learning. Videos will be posted on the TNAC website
        - o Leaf structure, leaf rubbing and chlorophyll staining crafts
        - o Growing vegetables
        - o Seed structure exploration
        - o Fish anatomy (crafts modeled after species in Long Island Sound)

**Fundraising/Corporate and Community Involvement:**

- Trumbull Community Women provided the Patrons of TNAC with a \$1,000 donation
- The Werth Family Foundation provided the Patrons of TNAC a \$1,200 grant
- TNAC is the non-profit for the month of June at the Trumbull Stop & Shop
  - o \$1.00 from the purchase of each Giving Bag is donated to the Patrons of TNAC, as long as the customer does not designate another non-profit.

*(continued on page 2)*



**Reopening TNAC Building and Grounds:**

- Nature Centers are included in State of Connecticut Reopening plans for June 17<sup>th</sup>
  - o Strict protocols are required. Please see these pdfs via online links:
    - Links to guidelines:
      - Museums, zoos, aquariums (see overall guidelines, and specifically page 14)
        - o [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DECD/Covid\\_Business\\_Recovery-Phase-2/AqMuseums\\_C3\\_V1.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DECD/Covid_Business_Recovery-Phase-2/AqMuseums_C3_V1.pdf)
      - Sports and fitness facilities
        - o [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DECD/Covid\\_Business\\_Recovery-Phase-2/Sports\\_FitnessCenters-\\_C4\\_V1.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DECD/Covid_Business_Recovery-Phase-2/Sports_FitnessCenters-_C4_V1.pdf)
- TNAC is awaiting permission from the Town of Trumbull to reopen
- Programming plans at TNAC hinge on the date of opening allowed by Trumbull
  - o The Patrons of TNAC are considering options on program implementation and will be meeting online to discuss
  - o The Patrons are developing several plans moving forward that will address various scenarios, including:
    - Number of visitors allowed at TNAC at one time
    - Whether or not schools will allow in-school visits and/or field trips

Submitted by:

Sheryl Baumann

Patrons of the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center

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