

Trumbull Nature Commission Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, June 17, 2025
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 7:00 pm by Mr. Boynton followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the December 17, 2024 minutes was tabled until September. Ms. Crandall noted one correction – Commissioners present should be Jack Boynton, Emily Shufrin and Karen Laracca; absent Olia Yelner.

Approval of the March 12, 2025 minutes – Ms. Crandall noted one correction – Approval of the December minutes was deferred until June. **Motion was made by Mrs. Shufrin to approve the minutes as amended; seconded by Ms. Yelner and approved by unanimous consent.**

TNAC Director's Report

Ms. Baumann highlighted the following from her report:

1. The Center had a very successful year with new programs being implemented.
2. ARPA funding was used for the Grade 4 program that worked out very well. Henkel will provide funding for next years' program.
3. Working on summer programs including one for St. Vincent's Special Needs where they have developed a custom program. Ms. Baumann noted field trip surveys are positive from the teachers and attendees.
4. TNAC will not be attending Trumbull Day but has increased their presence at other locations such as two Farmer's Markets, Trumbull Arts Festival, the Fall Festival and Madison Middle School Health Fair.
5. Participated in the BRBC event at Harbor Yard Arena.
6. Grant funding was reviewed. Noted there is steep competition for private foundational grants. Funding for TNAC is in the State budget but cannot find its location or amount in the budget. Senator assured her funding has been approved.
7. Preparing fall programs and waiting responses on several grants for funding those programs.
8. Gutters, flashing and a broken water valve have not been addressed by the Town. The roof was repaired and flashing installed in the back but it has fallen off with another piece on the side of

the building missing. The valve constantly leaks unless the water is turned off in the basement.

Volunteers and students use the outside water so it needs to be repaired.

Mr. Boynton noted it was good to see the community partners increasing. Mrs. Baumann indicated it has not led to an increase in funding at this time.

9. Still waiting for responses from M&T and First County Bank regarding grants.
10. Mr. Malone recently completed the Sustainable STEM program for high school students. There were 19 participants who worked on sustainability plans and received scholarships paid for by Henkel. Henkel has provided funding for next year.
11. TNAC will be hiring six Trumbull High School students to help with the field trips during the summer. Training will be held at the end of June.
12. Mr. Malone will send his report on the Sustainable STEM program to the Commissioners when it is completed.

Old Business

1. Update – TNAC Building and Grounds – Mrs. Shufrin is concerned the Town has not responded to the request to repair the gutters, flashing and a broken water valve that is an integral part of some of the programs at the Center. Not addressing these problems could cause further damage to the building. Ms. Baumann indicated she sent emails to the Town, the last being on April 28, regarding the flashing. An action plan needs to be developed to keep on track with the repairs. Ms. Baumann will send another email regarding the repairs, copying the Commissioners. If no response is received, additional action will be taken.
2. Update – Architectural Plans and Budget for Building Remodel – Ms. Baumann discussed proposed conceptual drawings from the architect. A cost estimate for the project should be received in July or August. Mr. Estrada requires this information to place the project on the Capital Five-Year Plan. Mrs. Shufrin offered assistance with documents to help move this project forward.
3. Grant Opportunities – previously discussed.
4. Letter to Representative Rutigliano Regarding Grants – letter sent; no response.

New Business

1. Next Meeting – The September 16 meeting was changed to Wednesday, September 3.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Ms. Yelner to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 pm. Seconded by Mrs. Shufrin and approved by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk