

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT**



Trumbull Conservation Commission Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, July 1, 2020
7:00 pm

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

Commissioners Absent: Kim DiCorpo

Also Attending: Jim Norgren, Pam Roman, Mary Isaac, and Sara Sterling

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Lemay. Condolences were expressed on the loss of Conservation Commissioner Christopher McCormack who passed away unexpectedly in April. It was noted he was a great asset to the commission and will be missed.

Past Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Post to approve the minutes of February 26, 2020 as written. Seconded by Mr. Coughlin and approved unanimously.

Mrs. Lemay introduced Mrs. Isaac and Ms. Roman as members of the Sustainable Connecticut as well as Sara Sterling, a resident of Trumbull who is interested in the work of the Commission.

Old Business

Mrs. Lemay noted there have not been many new developments in the Pollinator Pathway initiative for the past several months. She noted it does have an impact on the Sustainable CT initiative. Ms. Roman has provided information on invasive plants and their removal. A ZOOM on Low Impact Development was held on May 11, 2020 which was well attended by staff and Commissioners. Both programs can be used in the Sustainable CT application. Ms. Roman noted the program on the Pollinator Pathway was recorded and is on demand on CT TV. Mrs. Isaac noted that once they have their website set up, there will be a YouTube available for view. This has been advertised on the Sustainable CT Facebook page. Most Pollinator Pathway activities are being conducted by ZOOM and they have become popular and easy to do.

Proposed Pool at Twin Brooks Park

No additional information on the proposed development on this site. Mrs. Isaac noted the committee has not met since the shutdown.

Twin Brooks Ponds

Inquiries were made regarding the dying off of vegetation in the ponds. Mrs. Lemay reached out to Dmitri Paris and found the town has a permit every year from the DEP to use an herbicide to manage the invasive aquatic plants that are engulfing the ponds at Twin Brooks. This is DEP approved and there is an extensive permitting process required. It is called Aquathol. It is a potassium based substance that has an instant effect on the plants killing them within a couple of weeks. It does not have any effect on the plant's root system requiring a yearly application. It does not have any effect on aquatic species or wildlife near the ponds.

Ms. Roman noted this would be a good addition to the bullets prepared by Sustainable CT for invasive plants. More information will be obtained from Mr. Paris.

Sustainable CT

Mr. Post gave an update on the application being prepared. As of approximately three weeks ago, they were 30 points below the 200 required for a bronze designation. Several points could be found with items from the Conservation Commission that could be broadcast on Facebook such as tree preservation completed by Don Watson. They need to know who received the information, when it was sent out and the purpose for which they were designed. Other programs were discussed regarding native plants and how to remove invasive plants. Mrs. Lemay noted there is a ZOOM on Removing Invasive Plants on Monday, July 6 by a master gardener from Wakeman Town Farm in Westport. She suggested we contact the presenter and ask her to do the same program for Trumbull. This could be documented and considered for points. She also has a document on invasive plants which could be used.

Five events are required by the end of August for the application. The Farmer's Market counts as one. Programs on the Pollinator Pathway, invasive plants, compost and recycling plastic wrap are being developed. Other areas of the application will be reworked with clarifying information which should provide for additional points.

Mr. Coughlin noted the golf course now has different management practices which could be used for the application. They have no mow areas in between the fairways and there may be other practices that would be applicable. They are looking to be Audubon Certified by reducing pesticide application, increasing wildlife habitat and providing habitat for pollinators. They have also identified birds on the course. They were also trying to put in a rain garden to catch the water used when rinsing off the carts. Mr. Coughlin will get in touch with the manager, Doug Snyder, for information on what conservation measures they have done.

Mrs. Isaac noted the virus stopped the presentation to the Town Council and many items for the Town website have not been updated because of this situation. Certification gives the town an opportunity to apply for grants in specific areas. It is great to see that we are a sustainable community. Various grant applications were discussed as well as fund raising ideas.

Natural Resource Inventory

Mr. Norgren presented his inventory findings gathered during his two year research assignment. He noted he has inventoried 50 properties. The only remaining properties to survey are Unity Park, Island Brook Park, Middlebrook Park and Great Brook Park. He reviewed the CT State Statute on Conservation Commissions and the Trumbull POCD with regard to NRIs. Discussion was held regarding acquisition of

open space and the role of the Land Acquisition Committee. Mr. Norgren noted the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund has funds to be used for such acquisitions. Mr. Norgren's presentation included pictures of open spaces with discussion of their particular attributes or deficiencies. He felt the best way to present this information to the Town would be by a public presentation stressing the positives of nature within the community. Getting information and recommendations from other groups is also important.

Mr. Norgren recommended the following:

- 1) open space acquisition - not many opportunities left
- 2) inventories are to assess town properties and future uses - the recommendation is to not sell any of the open spaces
- 3) storm water – there are not many opportunities for reforestation, stream bank restoration, litter clean-up or invasive plant removal. It is really a storm water issue. This could be addressed by various organizations/individuals within the community.

Mrs. Lemay thanked Mr. Norgren for the presentation and the work put into the NRI for the town. A presentation to the Town will be made in the future.

Marisa Site

Drainage issue on site with no silt fence. Changes have been made through the on-site manager.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Coughlin to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 pm. Seconded by Mr. Post and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk