

Trumbull Nature Commission Virtual Meeting  
Wednesday, September 3, 2025  
7:00 pm

**Present:** Chairman Jack Boynton, Emily Shufrin and Karen Laracca

**Absent:** Olia Yelner

**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. Laracca to approve the minutes of December 17, 2024. Ms. Crandall had previously noted one correction – Commissioners present should be Jack Boynton, Emily Shufrin and Karen Laracca; absent Olia Yelner. Seconded by Mrs. Shufrin and approved by unanimous consent.

Motion was made by Ms. Laracca to approve the minutes of June 17, 2025. Seconded by Mrs. Shufrin and approved with an abstention from Ms. Laracca.

**TNAC Director's Report**

Ms. Baumann highlighted the following from her report:

1. They are in the State budget and just received the application. Funding is \$50,000 for this fiscal year and another \$50,000 for next fiscal year to be received as a lump sum.
2. M&T Bank grant provided \$2,500 for Fall family programs and some programs into the Spring.
3. Summer was busy. Provided more scholarship programs than they had in the past.
4. Fall programs are in place and on the website. Registration can begin.
5. Starting to schedule the 2025/2026 school education programs.
6. The cost estimate for the building was received. The Patrons will review and then discuss with the Commission.
7. A few issues remain with the building and will be addressed this year according to Mr. Paris.
8. Volunteers are still coming in to help (Kennedy Collective and Goodwill).
9. Applying for additional grants.
10. Contracted with another environmental educator who will be on-boarding this month.

Mr. Boynton questioned what type of help Goodwill provides at the Center. It was noted they water the gardens on the property, do some weeding, light housekeeping in the building and assembly projects (put together nature journals, second grade programs, etc.). Volunteer hours for 2024 were tracked at 955.

**Old Business**

1. Update – TNAC Building and Grounds – Ms. Baumann noted updates are in the budget for FY 2026. Mr. Paris has been contacted; She will contact him again regarding the timing. Mr. Boynton is concerned about the down spouts which could be a problem for the Fall.
2. Update – Architectural Plans and Budget for Building Remodel – Mr. Estrada was contacted regarding next steps. Concerned nothing will happen this year considering the estimate was just received.
3. Grant Opportunities – previously discussed. Horizon Foundation provides grant money on a two year schedule and TNAC would be eligible again this year. Ms. Baumann reached out indicating TNAC is interested. Decision would be known in October. Also contacting one other foundation and a bank. This is a difficult environment to raise funds.
4. Remaining ARPA funding is \$82,831 (out of \$100,000). The funds were budgeted to last through October 2026 with total expenditure of funds required by December 2026.

**New Business**

1. Next Meeting – The December 9, 2025 meeting was changed to Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

**Adjournment**

**There being no further business, motion was made by Ms. Laracca to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 pm. Seconded by Mrs. Shufrin and approved by unanimous consent.**

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall  
Clerk