

Trumbull Nature Commission Virtual Meeting
Monday, September 14, 2020
7:00 pm

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

Also Present: Sheryl Baumann and Kevin Malone from TNAC

Absent: Jeffrey Kunkel

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Mrs. Shufrin followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Past Minutes

Motion was made by Mrs. Nordvall to approve the minutes of June 16, 2020 as written. Seconded by Mr. Boynton and approved.

TNAC Q&A

Mrs. Baumann reviewed her Director's Report. The complete TNAC update is attached to the minutes. Mrs. Nordvall requested clarification of the following:

1. Repair of flashing – to date, this has not been completed. Mrs. Shufrin noted George Estrada has been made aware of this request but has many responsibilities with COVID compliance for the town. An email will be sent to update him on the request.
2. Bathroom odor – Mrs. Baumann noted this problem seems to have been resolved with water being run down the drain.

Old Business

1. TNAC grounds have reopened on a limited basis. The walking trails are open. Visitors should bring their own hand sanitizer. Rest room facilities are not open at this time for the public.
2. Internet has been set up by the town IT Department. Google Nests have been purchased to extend the range to provide internet for outside programs.
3. The garage door has been repaired by the town. It was a simple fix.
4. Volunteers have been helping with weeding and grounds cleanup. Two different groups were working this past weekend in the butterfly garden and on the trails. Social distancing was observed and all involved wore masks. Mrs. Baumann noted that health screenings for the volunteers is not necessary according to the protocols in place at this time.

New Business

1. Upcoming programs were discussed.
 - a. Sunflower Seed Harvest will be held in three sessions. Tickets are on sale from the website. Program information is in the Director's Report. To date, seven families have signed up to participate.

- b. Native American Story Telling is tentatively scheduled for October. This is typically presented around a campfire but drought conditions may require it to be cancelled.
- c. Wreath making is tentatively scheduled for November so that it can be held outside before the weather turns too cold.
- 2. Mrs. Baumann noted the retaining walls that border either side of the driveway need to be assessed by the town to see if they are compromised as the walls are crumbling. This is not an area typically used by the public but should be addressed. An email will be sent to Mr. Estrada.
- 3. Mrs. Baumann noted a tree fell down across one of the back trails which will be handled by TNAC for removal.
- 4. The next meeting will be December 15, 2020. Meetings for 2021 have not been established.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Boynton to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 pm. Seconded by Mrs. Nordvall and approved unanimously.

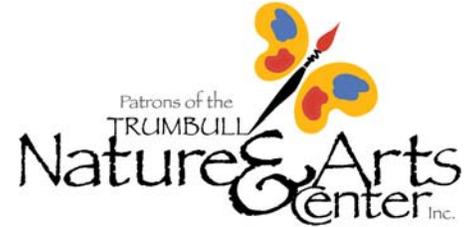
Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk

Patrons of the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center

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

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Subject: Report to Nature Commission: September 2020

TNAC Building and Grounds:

- The grounds are open
- Sunflower garden – has been planted and is being maintained by volunteers
- Butterfly garden
 - o Weeding and mulching to be done by small groups of youth volunteers:
 - Trumbull Biology Club on September 12
 - Monroe Boy Scout Troop on September 13
 - This is part of an Eagle Scout project which includes a Little Free Library
 - o The Little Free Library should be installed before the end of the year
 - o Flashing at back of building
 - o The missing roof edging has not yet been repaired
- Wifi
 - o The Patrons of TNAC purchased a Google Nest system to extend the range of the wifi
 - o The wifi was installed on September 2
- Second bathroom
 - o Water was poured down shower drain to mitigate smell backup from the septic system

Field Trips, In-School Visits and Programs:

- All in-person visits are on hold due to schools not permitting field trips or in-school visitors

Virtual Environmental Education:

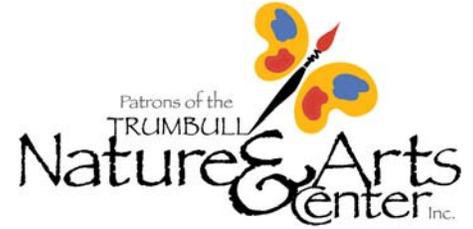
- The Patrons are developing programs that can be done via online learning during the school day
 - o Current programs are being adapted
- The Patrons were asked to develop an afterschool program for Middlebrook School
 - o If moving forward, there would be 6 weekly sessions
 - o If successful, they may be offered to additional Trumbull elementary schools
- Over the summer, additional videos were created and posted to the TNAC website
 - o Mark Ceneri: Aquatic Invertebrates
 - o Trumbull Biology Club:
 - Let's Learn About Lettuce, Edible Flowers, Leaf Activity and Craft, Chlorophyll Craft and Science Experiment, and Lima Bean Exploration
 - o Patrons student board member Sarah Dawson:
 - Water quality experiments

Fundraising

- The Patrons were awarded a \$10,000 grant from Henkel, and are awaiting payment
 - o Funds are earmarked for:
 - Discovering Hidden Nature program
 - Scholarship-funded field trips for students from underserved communities
 - Supplies for a possible Henkel volunteer day

New TNAC Website:

- A new website has been designed on the Wix platform ○ The transition from the previous web host is in process, and the new website should be live soon



Programs:

- A Sunflower Seed Harvest program is being planned for Saturday, September 26th ○ There will be 3 sessions
 - Enrollment is limited to 5 families of up to 5 people per session ○ The program will be held entirely outside ○ Program to be led by Mark Ceneri ○ Activities will include:
 - Each family will cut its own sunflower head
 - Mark will instruct the families on how to remove the sunflower seeds, and roast them
 - Families will be given a dwarf sunflower plant
 - There will be a sunflower craft for children ○ The Patrons are hoping to hold a Native American Storytelling program in October and a Wreath Making Program in November

Submitted by:

Sheryl Baumann

Patrons of the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center

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