

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT**



Trumbull Conservation Commission Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, September 29, 2021
7:00 pm

Present: Chairman Mary Ellen Lemay, Commissioners Pam Roman, John Massari, Matthew Silzicki, Tim Coughlin and Sara Sterling

Also Present: Charles Vidich, General Project Manager for WESTCOG; Tony Silber, Chairman, Planning & Zoning Commission (exited the meeting at 8:10 pm); Richard Girouard, Chairman, Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission (exited the meeting at 8:24 pm) and Rob Librandi, Town Engineer (exited the meeting at 8:00 pm)

Absent: Richard Post

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lemay at 7:05 pm.

Past Minutes

Motion was made by Mrs. Sterling to approve the minutes of September 1, 2021 as written. Seconded by Ms. Roman and approved with abstention from Mr. Coughlin.

New Business

Special Presentation on the New State Zoning Mandates for Riparian Corridors – Mrs. Lemay introduced Charles Vidich, General Project Manager from WESTCOG, who discussed a power point presentation on The Case for Riparian Corridor Protection. The presentation included discussions on the following:

1. Why Protect Riparian Corridors
2. Development within Connecticut's Riparian Corridors
3. Past Legislative Efforts to Protect Riparian Corridors
4. Rise of Pollutant Loadings on State Watercourses
5. Riparian Corridor Practices in Connecticut
6. Benefits of Forested Riparian Corridors
7. The Role of Navigable Waters
8. Alternative Zoning Strategies

General discussion was held after the presentation regarding:

1. The role of the Planning and Zoning and Inland Wetlands Commission with regard to this new mandate

2. Federal and State regulations
3. Enforcement of the new mandate
4. Surrounding states' setback requirements
5. Strategies for Inland Wetlands
6. New versus existing developments looking to update/repurpose with regard to applications
7. Public trust (citizens are allowed to contest decisions made by officials)
8. Possible appeals when land parcels are one quarter or one half an acre and how adjustments would be handled
9. Challenges for all organizations from the State down to the individual towns
10. In the absence of new permits, how would the town move forward with the new mandate; adaptive reuse or repurposing

Mrs. Lemay thanked Mr. Vidich for the excellent presentation and was glad to see that the P&Z Chairman and IWWC Chairman were panelists to hear the information they will be dealing with through this new mandate.

NRI Presentation to the Parks and Recreation Commission

Mrs. Sterling noted she has been working on the information to be presented but would like another commissioner to review the presentation to help clarify what needs to be addressed with the Commission. She has reviewed the POCD, Tree Management Program and other documents to help define what information needs to be shared and developed in a way as to provide guidance to the land use boards with specific recommendations.

Mrs. Lemay noted she has requested to be on the October 18 Parks and Recreation Commission agenda to present the NRI. She is unsure if Mr. Nordgren would be available at that time to meet and may request a delay to their November meeting.

Edits and New Format of the Natural Resource Inventory

Mrs. Sterling and Mr. Sulzicki had no additional report. They felt that the Parks and Recreation Commission should be involved in the development of these pages as this information will be included on their webpage.

Status of Sustainable Trumbull Submission for Silver

Ms. Roman noted the application was submitted in August but they do not expect to hear anything until sometime in late November. Mr. Massaro noted he is in contact with a representative from DEEP regarding the possibility of doing work on the bridges in the Pequonnock Valley.

Noxious Weed List and Native Plant List

Ms. Roman noted she sent the information about updating these lists to Mrs. Katske. Mrs. Lemay stated she heard back that the Trumbull Health Department has more items on this ordinance that need to be updated so this project will be put on hold until they have the opportunity to edit/update their information. Ms. Roman noted Sustainable CT has information on their website regarding the weed list and native plants that can be used as a reference.

Legislation: A Thousand Trees for Trumbull

Mrs. Lemay has requested to be on the Town Council agenda for discussion of a tree replanting plan and pesticide restrictions on town properties. This would start at the sub-committee level and may best be done after the election so that all newly voted in members will hear the presentation. Mrs. Lemay

noted that 80% of the plants and trees for new developments in the town are native plantings and the native tree requirement would document what is currently being done. Education of residents was discussed with regard to what the town is doing on these issues. Mrs. Lemay feels some of the money budgeted for tree removal should be earmarked for tree replacement.

Update on Term Expirations

Mrs. Lemay noted that the terms for Ms. Roman and Mr. Sulzicki will expire in early December.

Next Meeting

The last two meetings scheduled for the year are October 27 and December 1 at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk