

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT**



Trumbull Conservation Commission Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, October 27, 2021
7:00 pm

Present: Chairman Mary Ellen Lemay, Commissioners Richard Post, John Massari, Matthew Sulzicki, Tim Coughlin and Sara Sterling

Absent: Pam Roman

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lemay at 7:09 pm.

Past Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Coughlin to approve the minutes of September 29, 2021 as written. Seconded by Mr. Massari and approved with one abstention from Mr. Post.

NRI Presentation to Parks and Rec Commission

Mrs. Lemay noted the last meeting was cancelled and they are on the agenda for November 8. Mr. Nordgren is coming to make the presentation. Mrs. Sterling and Mr. Post will attend the meeting.

Status of Sustainable Trumbull Submission for Silver Certification

Mrs. Lemay noted, unofficially, the application was approved for Silver status. Nothing will be announced formally until next week.

Zoning Regulation Changes

The new law went into effect October 1 and they are moving forward and meeting with other land use boards. This is where the work Mrs. Sterling has done will be helpful. There are five model regulations that can be introduced out of the report from WESTCOG. The town already uses two regulations and the others should be reviewed.

Lengthy discussion was held regarding a draft letter prepared by Mrs. Lemay regarding two properties in town, Moorefield Estates and private property at 198 Old Dike Road, that have violated Planning and Zoning plan approvals.

1. Moorefield Estates – stone wall and street trees were removed. This is in violation of P&Z plan approval yet they were removed in totality earlier in the month. This violation was verified by

Mrs. Lemay through the town. It is unknown who gave approval for the removal of the wall and clear cut. Town Engineer found seven deficiencies on site when he did an inspection.

2. 198 Old Dike Road – the property owner is now selling the property but someone has girdled several trees within the regulated area. This will cause the trees to die and will need to be removed which is a violation of P&Z plan approval. P&Z, IWWC and the Town have been requested to review this violation.

Mrs. Lemay noted she has included several questions in the letter to the Town officials regarding the projects including tree replacement plans. Several recommendations were made by the Commissioners for inclusion in the letter including:

1. Address for both properties
2. Tree replacement plan for Old Dike Road to include native plantings
3. Letter to be sent to P&Z, IWWC and the Town Attorney with cc to the First Selectman
4. Discussion of the Daniels Farm Road project in more detail

After further discussion, motion was made by Mr. Coughlin to approve the letter with the edits made by the Commission, seconded by Mr. Post and approved unanimously.

A Thousand Trees for Trumbull/Tree City

Mrs. Lemay noted she has been working with Rina Bakalar, Economic Development Director, on a grant from DEP from \$20,000. The grant has several applications including a Natural Resource Inventory and Tree Management Plan both of which the Town has already completed. However, she hopes the funds could be used for implementation of the Tree Management Plan by providing a resource for tree purchase and planting. The grant application will be completed with input from Ms. Bakalar, George Estrada and Dmitri Paris. The grant is a 50/50 match with the Town. State foresters have been contacted for help in designation of the funding for tree replacement. Mr. Massari will contact DEP for information on using the funding for tree replacement/contractor costs for planting, since the town already has the NRI and Tree Management Plan in hand. Deadline for submission is December 3, 2021.

Question was raised about the clearing of land near the Vietnam Memorial on White Plains Road by the town. Mrs. Lemay will inquire about what is planned for that area.

Commissioner Terms

Ms. Roman and Mr. Sulzicki will be re-commissioned at the December 1 meeting by the First Selectman.

Edits and New Format of the Natural Resource Inventory

Mrs. Sterling presented her recommendations for how to present this information to the town land use organizations noting the following:

1. The NRI, Plan of Conservation and Development, Sustainable Trumbull, Hazard Mitigation, Tree Management Policy and other documents were gleaned for information.
2. First four pages would be general information for all documents. The remainder of the document would target specifics for each land use organization.
3. High level recommendations would be outlined.
4. Directed to town organizations and home homeowners for education and long-range planning as an organization/commission or individual property owner.
5. Each organization would be given recommendations that would be helpful and achievable with little to no effort as well as recommendations that may take more planning/funding to implement.

Next steps were discussed including decisions on specific recommendations to be included in each document, what organizations are included in the process and how the town is currently addressing climate change that could be incorporated in the documents. Mrs. Sterling will continue to work on the document with input from the Commissioners.

Town Survey

Mrs. Sterling discussed a possible survey to obtain a more targeted direction for the next few years on what the residents are looking for the town to address with regards to conservation issues. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

Assignments

1. Mrs. Lemay will print copies of the NRI for use by P&Z in conjunction with the new formatted information.
2. Mrs. Lemay will inquire about the clearing of property at Twin Brooks.
3. Mr. Massari will contact DEP regarding grant uses. Mr. Coughlin and Mr. Massari will work with Mrs. Lemay on completing the application.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk