

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT**



Trumbull Conservation Commission Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, October 28, 2020
7:00 pm

Present: Chairman Mary Ellen Lemay, Commissioners Richard Post, Tim Coughlin and Kim DiCorpo

Commissioners Absent: Joanne Parsons

Also Attending: Jim Nordgren

Chairman Lemay opened the meeting at 7:07 pm and noted that the meeting would be dedicated to the presentation of the Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) conducted by Jim Nordgren.

Past Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Post to approve the minutes of July 17, 2020 as written. Seconded by Mr. Coughlin and approved with one abstention from Mrs. DiCorpo.

Motion was made by Mr. Post to approve the minutes of July 1, 2020 as written. Seconded by Mr. Coughlin and approved with one abstention from Mrs. DiCorpo.

Sustainable Connecticut Update

Mr. Post, a member of the Sustainable Connecticut Committee, announced that the Town of Trumbull achieved the Bronze Level in the program. This opens the Town up for potential funding opportunities. The Committee has plans in motion to move upwards to the Silver Level. Submission of the next round of paperwork is due in August 2021. Announcement of the award will be done in the near future.

Natural Resource Inventory Presentation

Mr. Nordgren noted his presentation is a draft of the Natural Resource Inventory that he completed for the Conservation Commission and the Town of Trumbull.

Highlights of the presentation:

1. Connecticut General Statutes 7-131a – role of a Conservation Commission noting they may conduct a Natural Resource Inventory and do an open space index .
2. The Town of Trumbull POCD also notes the establishment of a Natural Resource Inventory for the use of developers and determination of what open spaces should be acquired.

3. Goals of the NRI include the identification of natural resources and threats and come up with recommendations, options and strategies. Outreach is most important to residents and businesses and is the most effective action that can be taken.
4. Open space map was reviewed – 52 parks and open space parcels over two acres in size were the focus of the study.
5. Inventory is over 600 pages with findings and maps. Review of Beaches Memorial Park and Twin Brooks Park was presented as an example of what was done in the 52 parks and parcels. The inventory could be a nature guide for citizens who are interested in particular areas in town. At the end of the each write-up, there is an inventory of all the plants found in the area which could be updated by citizens in the future.
6. The NRI could be used when proposals come before the town for development such as Beach Memorial Park pool construction.
7. Existing field studies were reviewed. Most were concerned with water because of the importance of the Pequonnock River and Long Island Sound. The POCD has the most influence and is the best guide.
8. Recommendations from all the studies included open space protection, storm water pollution prevention, green landscaping and stronger regulation enforcement. The town POCD has the same recommendations.
9. Pequonnock River water quality is impaired. Most of the river flowing through Trumbull is polluted. Actions that can be taken to clean up the river are very costly. What steps does Trumbull want to take in this area?
10. Flood risk map from 2018 was reviewed. Re-naturalization will benefit the Pequonnock River and Long Island Sound as well as ameliorate the flood risk and provide other benefits to the town.
11. Recommendations include, through education and outreach, green landscaping for residents and businesses for re-naturalization, preserving open space, storm water and water quality improvements, training and regulation, creating hiking trails, connecting greenways, regulating invasive plants and diseases and climate change projects, which is beyond the scope of the NRI.
12. Open space acquisitions – Land Acquisition Committee should be looking at these spaces. There is \$900,000,000 authorized by Congress for open space acquisition across the US through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Potential acquisitions were reviewed.
13. Greenways were noted with access to other areas/towns.
14. Storm water issues in the town were studied. Storm water retrofits may be necessary to stop the erosion. Areas of good water management were shown. Regulation and enforcement is difficult. Outreach and education is important. Utilization of the Storm Water Management Plan will protect the water resources.

The Town Council Chairman requested this presentation be made to the Council at their meeting on November 5. Other commissions and committees are also interested in this presentation. The information will be posted on the Conservation Commission website for all residents to review.

There being no further business, motion was made by Mrs. Lemay to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. Seconded by Mr. Coughlin and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk