

MEETING MINUTES
Trumbull Parks and Recreation Commission
Monday, November 8, 2021

In attendance:

Kevin Bellow, Chairman
Mike Travisano, Vice Chairman
Bill Brown
Brian LeClerc
Ken Martin
Ed Ritacco
Nancy Walsh

Also in attendance:

Dmitri Paris, Superintendent of Parks

Not in attendance:

Jon O'Brien

Guests:

Warren Jacques, Friends of Twin Brooks, 37 Old Elm Road
Mary Beth Thornton, Friends of Twin Brooks, 40 Sturbridge Lane
Jim Nordgren, JN Land Trust Services
Sara Sterling, Trumbull Conservation Commission

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., and was suspended by Chairman Bellows to allow for public comment.

Town Tree Warden Warren Jacques and Mary Beth Thornton appeared as representatives of the ad hoc committee Friends of Twin Brooks. The group's aim is to protect the area surrounding a historic Threadleaf Japanese Maple tree at the entrance to Twin Brooks Park, make safety improvements for pedestrians and cyclists, and inform the community of the tree's history and notable status. Mr. Jacques shared the history and photographs of the tree as well as the proposed plan (attached). Mrs. Thornton discussed some of the safety measures the group would like to implement. The group will conduct fundraising efforts.

Sara Sterling of the Trumbull Conservation Commission and Jim Nordgren of JN Land Trust Services appeared before the Commission to present the Trumbull's Natural Resource Inventory. The full report can be found in the "Related Documents" section of the Trumbull Conservation Commission's webpage: www.trumbull-ct.gov/406/conservation-commission

Mr. Nordgren and Ms. Sterling shared a brief presentation (attached) primarily focusing on Trumbull's passive recreation areas, including meadow restoration, planting trees and shrubs, increasing walking trails and access to green spaces, as well as storm-water management and flooding concerns.

Representatives from the Trumbull Girl Scouts will appear at the December meeting.

Mr. Nordgren and Ms. Sterling will also share the report with additional Town departments, including Highway, Engineering, and Land Acquisition.

Mr. Martin noted that an index of the spaces detailed in the document would be helpful for anyone looking for a specific location in the report. He also supported the recommendation of education through signage within the parks, as well as adding the Dogwood Lake property to the inventory.

MOTION to close public comment made by Mr. LeClerc, seconded by Mr. Travisano. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

MOTION to accept September meeting minutes made by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. LeClerc.

VOTE: 6-0-1 (Ritacco)

Motion carried.

Mr. Martin reopened the discussion of access to revenue collected from park fines. Mr. Paris suggested the Commission determine what funding it would like to see and draft a letter to the finance committee, and support the Parks and Recreation Department during budget hearings. The Commission discussed revenues provided at the September meeting as a starting point for the request. Manpower in the departments is a major concern. Mr. Martin and Mrs. Walsh will meet with Chief Ranger Chapman and Mr. Paris to discuss their needs.

Mr. Bellows asked for an update on the Hillcrest pool; additional funding for testing was approved and testing will likely begin this week. The scope of work has not yet been determined.

Mr. Paris' department has had to reassess the scope of work on several projects, including Gunther Pond, Twin Brooks, Unity, and Tashua Pool. The capital plan is currently being constructed, but Mr. Paris noted some difficult decisions will have to be made in order to complete outstanding projects.

Commissioners agree with the Friends of Twin Brooks proposal to protect and improve the area around the historic tree. The Commission would like to be kept informed of the committee's plans and noted that their approval is needed before any permanent work is done.

MOTION made by Mr. Martin and Mr. Travisano to accept the Trumbull Conservation Commission's Natural Resource Inventory, with the addition of an index, and to invite the Conservation Commission to return at least once per year to discuss updates with the Parks and Recreation Commission. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Mr. Paris informed the Commission that the funds needed to convert the basketball court at Island Brook into additional pickleball courts will require a special appropriation.

MOTION made by Mr. Trivisano to request a \$23,000 special appropriation to convert the basketball court at Island Brook Park into three pickleball courts, seconded by Mr. Ritacco. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

The Parks Department has begun the process of winterizing the fields and restrooms, as well as preliminary leaf collection in the parks system, bulb planting, and tree planting. Employees from the department will assist the Highway Department with Town's roadside leaf collection program.

The playground at Beach Memorial Park was heavily vandalized again: graffiti, climbing ropes were cut, other damage. Mr. Paris is going to bring in an independent evaluator to determine what needs to be done for all the playgrounds.

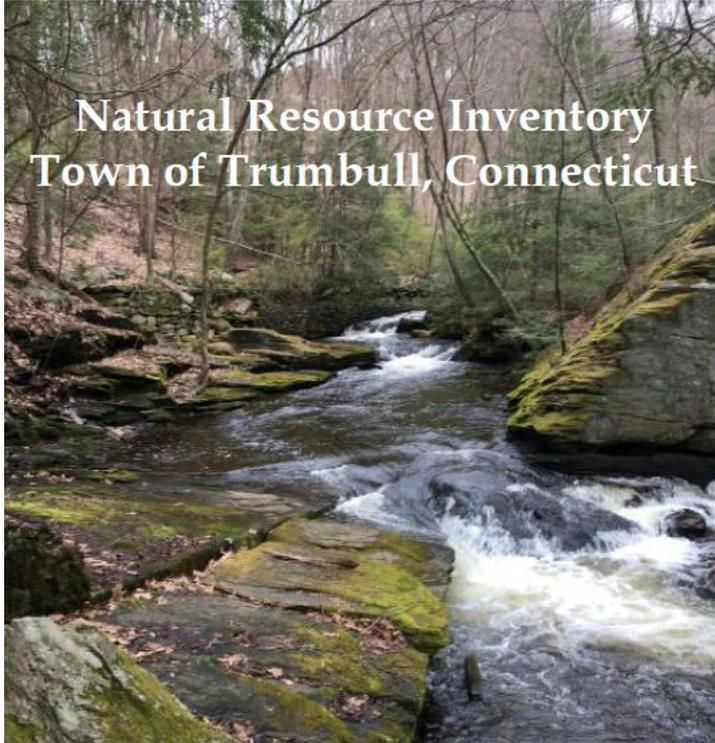
Mr. Paris also shared that the Quarry Road area is under control, with no notable events occurring.

Trunk or Treat was held at Tashua Knolls. Despite the cold weather, here was a good turnout.

MOTION to adjourn made by Mrs. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Ritacco. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Submitted by Laura Shiel



Natural Resources Inventory

Snapshot Summary

Parks & Rec

Quick Intro to NRI

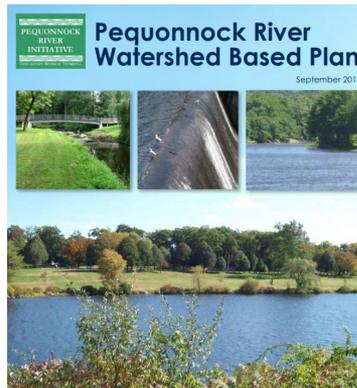
- Surveyed 52 parcels in the town (16 parks / 32 town owned properties)
- Describes the Town's conservation values: its rivers and streams, woods and fields, plants and wildlife, areas for passive recreation and places of scenic beauty.
- Identifies threats such as pollution, flooding, development, invasive plants and climate change and recommends steps that can be taken to diminish these threats.
- Includes detailed maps and descriptions of Trumbull's parks and open spaces

602 pgs describing the amazing resources and what we can do to preserve them

Continuation of work done in last decade - Focus on Trees & Water

- Pequonnock River Watershed Based Plan, 2011
- Plan of Conservation and Development
- CT DEEP Pequonnock River Summary Report, 2015
- Stormwater Reports 2018, 2019
- Tree Management Policy

Tree Management Policy



General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater from
Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems

2020 MS4 ANNUAL REPORT

Town of Trumbull
July 6, 2021

Trumbull: Beautifully Connected

2014 Plan of Conservation and Development
Trumbull Planning and Zoning Commission



Thematic Recommendations from NRI

Open Space & Trees

- Meadow Restoration
- Preserve Open Space
- Create Hiking Trails & Connect Greenways
- Increase Green
- Remove Invasive Plants & Treat Diseases

Wetlands & Water Management

- Stormwater Management
- Improve Water Quality
- Buffer Zones
- Pesticide & Fertilizer Management
- Prevent Erosion & Steep Slopes
- Dumping & Litter

Audiences

- Homeowners & residents
 - Implementation of best practices in their own personal property
 - Greater knowledge of the open spaces for greater enjoyment
- Town
 - Long term planning
 - Specific commission and organizations to implement appropriate recommendations
- Volunteer organizations
 - Help repair some of the threats and implement recommendations

Parks & Rec

- Reclaim encroaching neighbor lawns for meadows in: NW corner of Great oak, Chernak, Tait Road with annual brush hogging
- Streambank restoration as was done at Old Mine in: Indian Ledge, Unity, Mary Bill and Friar Lane
- Continue to educate visitors to Twin Brooks with signage on the benefits of native plantings to wildlife & water quality benefits to encourage homeowners to reduce lawn and pesticide/fertilizer use; same with the vegetative buffers around ponds
- Reduce pruning in Nichols orchard to increase flowers & fruiting (and reduce cost/effort)
- Address large scale dumping and trash in: Deer Run, Topaz Lane, Great Oak, Old Tashua Tree Farm, Mistywood Lane and Main/Lake

Parks & Rec, cont

- Work with volunteer groups to maintain trails and update markers, as well as continue litter cleanup
- Work with Public Works to make Old Tashua Tree Farm more appealing by putting in a parking lot, formalizing trails, and preserving some historic buildings
- Work with Rotary to create trails and put benches on river in Unity

Kaatz Pond: an ongoing high visibility project

- Protect steep slopes from further erosion
- Add wood duck boxes around pond
- Create a loop trail from Teller Road north on both sides of stream
- Create signage around native plants and vegetative buffer around pond for educating town residents and site visitors

Thank you!

How can we help with next steps?