

Trumbull Nature Commission Virtual Meeting  
Tuesday, December 2, 2025  
7:00 pm

**Present:** Chairman Jack Boynton, Emily Shufrin, Olia Yelner and Karen Laracca

Also Present: Sheryl Baumann and Kevin Malone from TNAC

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

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by Ms. Laracca to approve the minutes of September 3, 2025. Seconded by Mrs. Shufrin and approved with an abstention from Ms. Yelner.

**Election of Chairman**

Ms. Laracca nominated Mr. Boynton as Chairman for 2026. Seconded by Mrs. Shufrin and approved by unanimous consent.

**TNAC Director's Report**

Ms. Baumann highlighted the following from her report:

1. Building and Grounds – both front and back spigots were replaced; flashing around the exterior has not been done.
2. The cost of the building remodel has been received. At this time, the Town is prioritizing other projects. The Patrons have a meeting in January with the First Selectman and they will bring this project up at that time for discussion.
3. Henkel Day was a success.
4. The Patrons received \$50,000 from the FY 2026 Legislative Allocation. Contract has been executed with all signatures and they expect the funding soon. The major impact will be the educational exhibits. These will be new to the program. They received an estimate for replacement lighting in the front hallway, rooms on the left and right and the hanging light over the sink. This will make the visitor experience better. The vendor chosen is an approved vendor for the Town. Mr. Paris is on board with the project. There was a question regarding requisitions and payments. Mr. Paris is looking into the proper procedure to be followed. The funding is coming from the Connecticut State Legislature and administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Mrs. Shufrin suggested contacting Ms. Bakalar at the Town Hall regarding proper procedure or the DECD for guidance. Ms. Baumann will wait for Mr. Paris to respond and will make further inquiries, if necessary.
5. Consideration is being given to what type of displays will be included. Topics being discussed include the grounds and explanatory displays about pond, meadow and forest, natural history of Trumbull that could be an interesting collaboration with the Historical Society and a bio-

mimickery display on how people can learn from science and nature for invention. These types of programs would enhance the programs already in place and would be available in the Center for those attending field trips and programs.

6. Waiting to hear back from Horizon Foundation.
7. Scheduling for winter and spring with seasonal and educational programs is underway.
8. Annual Patrons meeting is February 7. Board members will be invited to attend.
9. New Board members are being brought on.
10. Discussing the potential of including arts in their programming.
11. Remaining ARPA funding is slightly over \$72,000. The funds were budgeted and allocated with total expenditure of funds required by December 2026.
12. Two new part-time instructors have been brought on. One will focus on the younger kids and the other grades 4-5. They will also provide some administrative assistance.

#### **Old Business**

No Old Business.

#### **New Business**

1. Discussion and Approval of Meeting Dates for 2026 – **motion was made by Ms. Laracca to approve the following quarterly meeting dates for 2026 – Tuesday, March 17, June 16, September 15, and Thursday, December 10. Seconded by Mrs. Shufrin and approved by unanimous consent.** All meetings will be held by ZOOM.

#### **Adjournment**

**There being no further business, motion was made by Ms. Laracca to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 pm. Seconded by Mrs. Shufrin and approved by unanimous consent.**

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall  
Clerk