

Trumbull Nature Commission Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, December 15, 2020
7:00 pm

Present: Chairman Emily Shufrin, Commissioners Jack Boynton, Helen Nordvall and Jeffrey Kunkel

Also Present: Sheryl Baumann from TNAC

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mrs. Shufrin followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Past Minutes

Mrs. Shufrin made one correction to the minutes of September 14, 2020 – under Old Business, #1 should read “The walking trails are open.” Motion was made by Mrs. Nordvall to approve the minutes of September 14, 2020 as amended. Seconded by Mr. Boynton and approved with one abstention from Mr. Kunkel.

TNAC Q&A

Mrs. Baumann discussed the following. The complete TNAC update is attached to the minutes.

Spring plans are dependent on the regulations at that time. They are considering the following programs which would be held outside.

1. Ground Hog Day program would include a hike and looking for hibernating animals including their resident ground hog’s hole. A craft kit would be prepared for the participants to take home with instructions on how to complete.
2. Maple sugaring would be held over two weekends to limit the size of the group. This would be a demonstration only of tapping the tree and boiling the sap but no tasting as they have done in the past.
3. Weather dependent programs would include a program about hiking in the snow, looking for animal tracks, winter tree identification, building a birdhouse or feeder and talking about birding in winter.
4. Also being discussed is a program in March for St. Patrick’s Day with a shamrock planting project to bring home and in April an Earth Day program talking about trees and giving away tree plugs.

Mrs. Nordvall commended Mrs. Baumann for keeping all the outside activities going despite restrictions. The sunflower program in September and the wreath making program were full which were outside. Winter programs are more challenging to be held outside.

Several volunteers came to do projects from the BSA, Henkel and Amazon. There are now two free libraries on the grounds for people to enjoy with donated books. The Biology Club is still doing activities.

Mrs. Baumann announced Amazon made a \$10,000 donation to the Center through their Neighbor Good Program. Once the funds are received, she will do a press release.

Old Business

1. TNAC grounds remain open – discussed previously with review of programs.
2. Property Improvements –
 - a. Flashing still needs to be repaired.
 - b. Retaining wall needs to be addressed. It is crumbling and there is a concern about the rebar protruding out of the wall. The structural integrity needs to be evaluated.
 - c. Both garage doors need to be repainted.
 - d. The weathervane on the garage needs to be removed from the roof as it is falling apart.

Mr. Boynton will discuss these items with Mr. Estrada.

New Business

All items listed on the agenda were previously discussed.

The following meeting dates were approved for 2021:

- March 16, 2021
- June 15, 2021
- September 21, 2021
- December 14, 2021

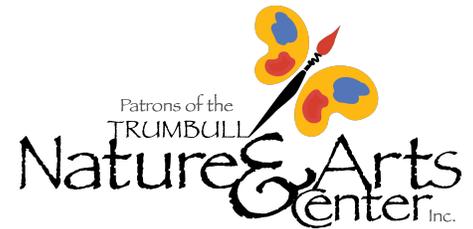
Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Kunkel to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 pm. Seconded by Mrs. Nordvall and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk

Patrons of the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 110438, Trumbull, CT 06611
Street Address: 7115 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611



Subject: Report to Nature Commission: December 2020

TNAC Building and Grounds:

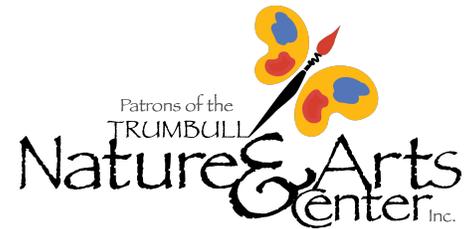
- Sunflower garden
 - o Amazon volunteers cut down dead sunflowers
 - Garden will need to be completely cleaned out in spring
- Leaves under maple tree
 - o Raked/blown by Amazon and TNAC volunteers on November 10th
- Butterfly garden
 - o Two Little Free Libraries were installed on October 10th
- Flashing at back of building
 - o The missing roof edging has not yet been repaired
- Retaining Walls by basement
 - o Town was notified, no action has been taken
- Chalkboard
 - o Was removed by Henkel volunteers on October 19th
 - Sam Cohen, Eagle Scout candidate, may do replacement project, as well as landscaping of the surrounding area
 - Tentative installation date: June 2021
- Sandbox and Herb Garden
 - o Herb garden was removed, and sandbox was deconstructed by Henkel volunteers on October 19th
 - Hoping Henkel builds new sandbox in spring 2021
- Sensory Garden
 - o Was weeded by Henkel volunteers, Pam, and Kevin on October 19th
 - o Plans are for refurbishment in spring 2021
- Hoses and outside water
 - o Hoses were brought in and water turned off on November 10th

Upcoming Field Trips, In-School Visits and Programs:

- All in-person visits are on hold due to schools not permitting field trips or in-school visitors
- Planning is in process for winter and spring 2021 programs
- Date being held for a 2-session Scouts' animal tracking program in January

Programs Held:

- Sunflower Seed Harvest program was held on September 26th
 - o Three sessions were held
 - Program was held entirely outside
 - Guests were socially distanced from each other and were required to wear masks
- Wreath-making program was held on November 21st
 - o One session was held
 - Program was held entirely outside
 - Each family was at its own table



- Trumbull Times printed press release
- Cub Scouts In the Wild program
- Program was held outside
 - There were 6 attendees

Virtual Environmental Education:

- The Trumbull Students Biology Club created a video on the biology and history of corn
 - Video was posted to TNAC's website and Facebook page

Volunteers

- All volunteer activities were held outside
 - Members of the Trumbull Students Biology Club volunteered on September 12th
 - Henkel employees volunteered on October 19th
 - Amazon employees volunteered on November 10th
 - Majority of time was spent raking the leaves under the front maple tree
 - Very helpful, as it cleared the area for the wreath-making program
 - Trumbull Times printed press release
 - Little Free Libraries project
 - Julian Zeppetello, BSA Troop 62, installed two Little Free Libraries at the entrance to the butterfly garden
 - Troop members cleared the overgrowth in the garden
 - Pam Roman solicited book donations with a nature theme from Penguin Random House
 - There is one library for children, and one for adults
 - Both libraries have official plaques and are registered with littlefreelibraries.com
 - Registration and plaques were paid for by the Zeppetello family
 - The Trumbull Times published a holiday feature article on the project
 - Eagle Scouts Projects:
 - Possible chalkboard replacement project, with June 2021 installation date
 - Possible carpenter bee houses installation project, to be constructed over the winter and installed in spring 2021

Fundraising

- Mallett Foundation
 - The Patrons received a \$2,500 donation from the Mallett Foundation
- Stop & Shop
 - The Patrons were named Stop & Shop's nonprofit organization for June 2020
 - Received \$47

Submitted by:

Sheryl Baumann

Patrons of the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center

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