



**Conservation Technical Advisory Committee  
Regular Meeting: Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 11 am  
Virtual Zoom Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

- Zach Giron – MetroCOG
- Mark Hoover – MetroCOG
- Patrick Carleton - MetroCOG
- Mary Ellen Lemay – Trumbull Conservation Commission, ALT
- Karen Burnaska – Monroe Conservation Commission
- Lynn Haig – City of Bridgeport
- Kelly Kerrigan – Town of Stratford
- Gregg Dancho – Stratford Conservation Commission, Beardsley Zoo
- Timothy Bishop – Town of Fairfield
- Don Watson – Town of Trumbull
- Kimberly Bradley - UCONN
- Daphne Dixon – Live Green CT

**2. MetroCOG EPA Assessment Grant Overview**

**Patrick Carleton, MetroCOG**

- Awarded 3 grants since 2013
- Applied for Community wide assessment grant Dec 1– asked for \$400,000
  - mostly for Environmental Site Assessments
  - some budget for site reuse planning
- If awarded town can submit application to MetroCOG
  - vetted internally and via Brownfield Working Group
  - brought to board for final approval
  - if approved then sent to EPA for site eligibility review
  - after EPA approval then work with consultant

### 3. Ash Creek Conservation Association Update

Zach Giron in place of Gail Robinson,  
Ash Creek Conservation Association

- Bridgeport and Fairfield have come together to install beach grass at the sand spit by March 2022. They will be discussing longer term plans as well.
- ACCA is going after several grants to revise their ecological master plan for the Ash Creek tidal estuary. The current master plan is from 2012 and needs to be updated.
- ACCA would like to acknowledge Don Watson for his help developing the 319 grant application

### 4. Year In Review – Municipal Updates

#### Bridgeport

Lynn Haig reporting on behalf of Steve Hladun

- Worked with groundwork Bridgeport – planted 50 trees at seaside park
- 40 additional trees planted in various parks to restore canopy
- Porous paving material used at Seaside Park
- The city and Fairfield in partnership to stabilize spit area
- New park at Wayne St via DEEP grant
- Zoning regulations for Bridgeport recently approved
- Have regulation when trees can be chopped down
- Aim to plant 3000 trees

Kelly Kerrigan asked how 3,000

Lynn -responded they started with what was realistic and bumped it up a little

#### Fairfield

Tim Bishop

- Inland wetland permit applications
  - available online in fillable pdf
  - online permitting going online soon
- Working on proposed changes to fees including performance bonds on inland wetland applications
- Looking to add land to additional open space
  - several in tax default of 15 yrs or more
- Working with ACCA on Ash Creek sand spit
  - 40,000 plugs beach grass to stabilize the spit
  - Long term coastal engineering study to follow
- Eagle scout projects related to work on trails
- Looking to replace tide gates
- Shellfish commission – applying for state grant for waste shell collection
- Working with UConn to do drone mapping of shellfish beds

#### Monroe

Karen Burnaska

- Monroe completed POCD update
- Conservation commission has updated open space plan and forward for public hearing and included in POCD as a supplement
- Presented regulations for riparian buffer and use of native plants
  - Riparian buffer – worked on with Bridgeport and Trumbull on Pequonnock river initiative

- Held a pollinator pathway webinar series with public library
  - how residents can put pollinator plants in backyard
- Monroe has electronic submissions of permit applications

## **Stratford**

Kelly Kerrigan

- Will check in with Winston on mile marker project at Roosevelt Forest
- Final stages on waterfront access guide
  - encourage people to get to water
- Awarded EPA targeted brownfield assessment
  - breaking ground early 2022
- Awarded \$1.5m for remediation at Contract Plating
- Annual project Greensweep, Housatonic River cleanup
  - next year 4/30
- Awarded section 319 for Bruce Brook Watershed plan
- Removed 14 underground storage tanks that were beyond their lifespan
- Disconnected illicit discharge to Brewster Pond
- Successful sampling period with unified water study
- Looking for gold standard with sustainable CT
- Working on Raymark superfund site
- Working with Audubon Society on Piping Plover issue on long beach
- Working on Frash Pond donation to the Town

Gregg Dancho- Beardsley Zoo

- Feed your food for thought program – green village initiative. Why food/community gardens/farmers markets
- Worked on monarch butterflies – tagged over 100 and checked for disease
  - Citizen science took part
- Save the sound work with Beardsley Zoo
- 2022 is 100 yr anniversary
- Remediation of Beardsley Park was done along White Plains Rd in coordination with the city of Bridgeport

## **Trumbull**

Mary Ellen Lemay

- Finished natural resource inventory
- Native plant ordinance – Newtown just approved for all town properties and developments – would like to replicate
- Aspetuck Land Trust
  - Monroe is now included
  - Eyes on Stratford
  - Plant sale – 4000 native trees/shrubs into region
- Sustainable CT
  - Trumbull and Fairfield both got silver certification
- Pollinator pathway launched at local nursery to sell native plants
- Thanks to Don Watson for 319 grant assistance
- Has book for native plants that can share with other towns for planting
  - link shared with Zach

## 5. Other Business

Zach

- Update from staff at CIRCA on Vulnerability Assessment
  - Will soon have full Phase 2 report sent out
  - SOW for consultant support to move some of the regional resilience opportunity areas (ROARs) into Phase III which will include deeper local engagement and will produce some resilience design options for potential grant applications
  - expanding climate vulnerability assessment for rest of state
- Update from Trout Unlimited
  - Mill River improvement project aims to improve habitat for wild brook and brown trout in the river by exit 46 of Merritt
  - Has not made much progress, TroutScapes is chosen vendor
  - Next step is to survey land for final documentation
  - High survey prices have caused delays so TroutScapes will do survey
  - Hoping to present the plan in 2022
- Discuss bylaws
  - Need formal notice for CTAC voting members, must be appointed by municipal CEO
  - 2 members from each municipality
    - 1 staff – 1 commission or resident
  - Will follow up with towns on appointees
  - Karen recommends Matt discussing it during the next board meeting

Zach will send out calendar of next year's meetings

Karen recommends having hybrid meetings moving forward

Lynn noted Bridgeport had June 20th as Juneteenth holiday so Zach will reschedule.

## 6. Adjourn

Meeting concluded at 11:56