

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Trumbull Nature Center And Park Rangers Station being Evaluated

Since taking office, this administration has worked hard to seek operational efficiencies, reduce our debt service and pension fund obligations, while upholding and protecting our high quality of life and basic town services. This effort for continuous improvement involves assessing the value and condition of our assets and their associated expenses.

Assessing Trumbull's open space inventory is included in this overall effort. Giving consideration to transferring assets to reduce the Town's overall costs has received bipartisan support. Currently, we are evaluating the Trumbull Nature and Arts Center, located on Route 111, and the Trumbull Ranger Station on White Plains Road. Both buildings are aging and in much need of repair. Neither facility is optimally located. Further, both the Parks Commission and the Nature and Arts Center Commission voted that it would be beneficial to combine the Ranger Station and the Nature and Arts Center since they have overlapping interests and programs.

We are assessing the current situation and potential alternatives. The exploratory assessment process is in the early phase. We are obtaining an appraisal of the present value and highest and best use of both properties and we are assessing the associated costs to repair and maintain the buildings. We are also carefully evaluating the advantages and disadvantages of relocating the facilities. No location has been determined at this time. A list of town-owned properties has been assembled and we are evaluating parks and open space to determine suitable alternatives. We are evaluating aspects such as size, utility hook-up, traffic impact, and the environment.

There is much to consider as we move through this process. Once we have conducted a more detailed analysis, we will be in a position to present a report of the findings and recommendations and we will invite the public to provide input before we move forward with a final plan. Such a report is expected sometime later this summer.

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