

KENT CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Kent Town Hall
41 Kent Green Boulevard
Kent, Connecticut 06757

REGULAR MEETING
February 8, 2017

MINUTES

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
KENT TOWN CLERK
2017 MAR -6 P 2:50
BY *D. Brady*
TOWN CLERK

Present: Commissioners Liddy Baker, Carol Franken, Connie Manes, Wendy Murphy, Donna Sommers; advisor Jos Spelbos. Guest: Lynn Worthington (reporter). Absent: Melissa Cherniske, Rick Levy.

Prior to the meeting the following items were distributed via email:

- A. Draft Agenda
- B. Draft Minutes of Regular Meeting January 11, 2017
- C. Approved Minutes of the November 2016 meeting
- D. Email notice DEEP RBV Monitoring, Spring and Summer samples welcome
- E. Email re: DEEP RBV Monitoring-related webinars
- F. Municipal Recycling Assessment Tool

1. Call to order.

A quorum being present, Connie called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.

2. Accept/Amend Agenda.

The draft Agenda was amended to add 5A. KCC/KML Earth Day Program. Upon a motion by Wendy seconded by Connie the amended agenda was unanimously accepted.

3. Review, amend, approve minutes of Regular Meeting of January 11, 2017.

Upon a motion by Liddy seconded by Carol, the Minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Treasurer's Report and Budget.

Liddy submitted her written report, noting that there were no new expenses. She has submitted KCC's budget for consideration by the Board of Selectmen. In the context of budgeted expenses the Commission discussed DEEP's invitation for volunteers to complete RBV stream monitoring this spring as an alternative to fall monitoring. Spring monitoring may produce better results if dry/drought conditions persist. Spring monitoring would need to be accompanied by a baseline photo of streams in the fall. Connie emailed Laurie Doss for her perspective on this, but has not heard back yet. No decision was made by the Commission.

The Commission also discussed budgeted expenses for its recycling advocacy. We will once again celebrate KCS's HRRRA Poster winner by enlarging and displaying the winning poster. Connie will reach out to Rick Osborne to jumpstart work on purchasing streetside recycling containers for the Village Center.

5. Public Comment

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None.

5A. **KCC/KML Earth Day Library Juniors Program.**

Carol reported that the program date has been changed to Friday, April 14th. The program will be about bees and their critical role as pollinators within our ecosystem. Carol has arranged for Catherine Wilco from Humble Bee Honey to come with her teaching hive. Humble Bee Honey charges a \$150 honorarium. Carol moved that the Commission cover this honorarium from its budget. Wendy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Commission discussed efforts to boost promotion of the event within Kent and in surrounding towns, to ensure excellent attendance.

6. **NCRI update**

HVA's GIS staff has left and no replacement has been hired as yet. This gives our Commission some time to consider the purpose and design of revised maps for the NCRI. Connie suggested that a small subcommittee meet to work on this and report back to the Commission. Donna, Wendy and Jos agreed to serve on this subcommittee.

7. **NHCOG**

- A. **POCD Update.** Connie reported that there had been a gathering focused on Economic Development in Litchfield Jan 30th. Neither Connie nor Jos attended but notes from the session confirmed earlier findings that area residents believe that top priorities related to economic development include attracting new and younger families to the area, and high-speed internet connectivity region-wide. The next NHCOG POCD forum will be Thursday, March 30th and the focus will be "Meeting the needs of an aging population and attracting and retaining young people in NWCT".
- B. **Trails Project.** Connie reported that she is working with HVA on a project to map all trails in the COG towns and suggest points for connector trails and places where trail systems might be improved by linkages with town centers and/or incorporating multiple uses (e.g., bikes, ADA). She noted that the COG had been inspired to do this project in part by the excellent work and public response to Wendy and John's Kent Trails book.

8. **Solar Farms – Model regs and other practices.** Tabled.

9. **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Campaign.** Discussed under item 4 - Budget.

10. **Water Conservation.** Tabled.

11. **Wildlife Conservation.** Discussed under item 4 – Budget.

12. **Old Business.**

- B. **Kent Welcome Center.** The Welcome Center building committee met to consider design aspects including the Commission's request that pervious paving material be used in the parking area. The estimate for the pervious paving material greatly exceeded budget. However, rather than use impervious surfacing the committee agreed to use crushed gravel so that groundwater can be absorbed rather than run off the parking area.

13. **New Business.**

- A. **River Road management planning.** Connie reported that a group including representatives from the Town, the Appalachian Mountain Club, and DEEP met to discuss how to address overuse and misuse issues on River Road and North Kent Road. Visitors have been flocking to areas of River Road where the river can be accessed, leaving garbage and drinking alcohol. There are insufficient personnel resources to address this issue. Beginning around Memorial Day and lasting through the summer, the northernmost portion of River Road will be closed to vehicles, and some parking areas/spaces blocked. North Kent Road will be closed east of the railroad tracks.

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14. Correspondence
Connie shared the announcement of the CLCC Annual Conference, March 18th at Wesleyan University.
15. Adjourn. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Manes, March 6, 2017

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