

KENT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Kent Town Hall
41 Kent Green Boulevard
Kent, Connecticut 06757

REGULAR MEETING

March 8, 2017

MINUTES

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BY

TOWN CLERK

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

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

- A. Draft Agenda
- B. Draft Minutes of Regular Meeting February 8, 2017
- C. Approved Minutes of the January 2017 meeting
- D. NRCA flyers
- E. Report from Wendy Murphy on NCRI Maps subcommittee meeting on March 4, 2017

1. Call to order.

A quorum being present and the chair absent, vice-chair Carol Franken called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

2. Accept/Amend Agenda.

Upon a motion by Wendy seconded by Liddy the agenda as presented was unanimously accepted.

3. Review, amend, approve minutes of Regular Meeting of February 8, 2017.

With minor changes to items 12B, 13A and 15, a motion by Liddy, seconded by Wendy, to accept the Minutes as amended was unanimously approved.

4. Treasurer's Report and Budget.

Liddy submitted her written report, noting that there were no new expenses. She also presented the revised 2017/18 budget request, which shows a larger amount for mapping expenses because of the new maps that have to be produced for the update of our resource inventory, but less for recycling supplies. The total requested will stay the same at \$2775. With the delay in the Open Space Plan and the resource inventory update there will likely be money left in our budget at the end of the present budget year.

5. Public Comment

None.

6A. Spring litter clean-up

Liddy is again leading the roadside cleanup campaign. Earth Day is Saturday April 22. The cleanup period was set at April 17-22, with a celebration on Sunday 4/23 at noon at the transfer station. Melissa had let us know that the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts will do their part on Friday 4/21. Liddy will provide

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bags and gloves. She has probably enough left over from last year not to have to ask the Chamber of Commerce for more. Carol will prepare a flyer to announce the event.

6B. Library children's event

Carol noted that this program about bees, sponsored by the Conservation Commission, has been moved to Saturday April 15.

6C. KCS Arbor Day program

Jos reported that he will meet with the Kent Center School Schoolyard Habitat Committee on March 22 to discuss the tree planting on April 27 and 28. Melissa has already ordered a sugar maple tree from Kent Greenhouse to replace the dying one in front of the school, and Kent Greenhouse has offered machine assistance.

7A. Streetside recycling containers

Liddy will set up a meeting with Michael van Valkenburg to discuss his proposal to custom build wooden recycling containers for the village streets at a cost substantially less than the artificial ones we researched.

7B. WRAP plastic bag and film recycling campaign

It was noted that the plastic bag recycling at the town transfer station needs to be marked better. The recycling setup at the transfer station has been recently changed to single stream in hopes to increase the recycling rate. A new compactor has been ordered.

7C. Municipal assessment of recycling compliance

Liddy will check with first selectman Bruce Adams to see if anyone has attempted to do this assessment.

8. NCRI update and Open Space Plan

Wendy, Donna and Jos met on March 4 to discuss the maps and information needed for the update of our resource inventory Natural & Cultural Riches of Kent, CT. Wendy reported on this in an email on March 8. We found it hard to decide which maps or information layers can be eliminated to keep our costs down, especially since we haven't been able to get cost estimates from the HVA, which has been without a GIS mapping specialist for a while. Jos has some information ready for updates. We will need to know also whether the tax collector will pay for updating the parcel map, and if and when the Planning and Zoning Commission will produce a new Soil-based zoning map based on their upcoming zoning regulation change.

Connie found out that the USDA-NRCS didn't receive the first selectman's request to map farmland soils of local importance. A new request will be made.

No progress on the Open Space Plan.

9. NHCOG POCD update and Trails project

Tabled

10. Solar Farms – Model regulations and other practices

Local zoning regulations and ordinances may not apply, since approval of commercial solar installations is up to the Connecticut Siting Council.

11. Water Conservation

11B. Carol was informed by Mary-Ann Haverstock of South Kent School that their focus this year has been on sustainable agriculture, but that she may call a community meeting about Hatch Pond watershed improvements later this year.

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12. Wildlife Conservation
12A. The turtle crossing signs should probably go up early May, on Camps Flat Road and on Bulls Bridge or South Kent Road. We will check with Laurie Doss.
12B. The commission concluded that it is too late to get a Spring River Monitoring of macro-invertebrates by Volunteers organized.
13. Old Business.
13B. Kent Welcome Center.
Liddy gave an update on the progress of the construction. The Center is on schedule to be opened in June.
14. New Business
14A. UConn NRCA program
Connie provided the commission with information about the Natural Resources Conservation Academy, a program of the UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, set up to provide high school students, and high and middle school teachers with free college level training courses in natural resource conservation, and to try to team them up with mentors to carry out local conservation projects. The program is looking for interested participants (before April), and local sponsors. The commission judged that the Kent Land Trust would be better equipped to sponsor and mentor students.
15. Correspondence
The Connecticut Land Conservation Council Annual Conference will take place on March 18th at Wesleyan University in Middletown.
16. Adjourn. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.
A reminder that the April meeting will start at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jos Spelbos, March 19, 2017

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