

KENT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Kent Town Hall
41 Kent Green Boulevard
Kent, Connecticut 06757

SPECIAL MEETING
November 18, 2015

MINUTES

Present: Commissioners Liddy Baker, Melissa Cherniske, Rick Levy, Connie Manes, Wendy Murphy, Donna Sommers. Advisor Jos Spelbos; guest Lindsey Kerr. Absent: Carol Franken.

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

- A. Draft Agenda
- B. Draft Minutes, Regular Meeting October 14, 2015
- C. Approved Minutes, Special Meeting September 28, 2015
- D. Final KCC Annual Report 2014-2015, by Manes
- E. Talking points on recycling, by Levy, Spelbos and Manes
- F. HRRRA recycling educator RFQ
- G. Summary of tree planting proposal, by Wendy Murphy

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BY *Donna Sommers*
TOWN CLERK

1. Call to order.
With chairperson Connie Manes arriving late, vice chair Franken absent, and a quorum of members present, Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Spelbos was asked to take the Minutes.
2. Accept/Amend Agenda.
The agenda was unanimously accepted without changes, but item 8 was moved forward, between 4 and 5.
3. Review, amend, approve Minutes of Regular Meeting October 14, 2015.
The Minutes were amended to reflect that Donna Sommers was present, and unanimously accepted with that amendment.
4. Treasurer's Report.
Treasurer Liddy Baker reported that bills of \$51.92 for recycling container bags and of \$52.68 for expenses incurred for the recycling event at the Transfer Station on November 15 were given to the town treasurer. Her report was unanimously approved.
Spelbos handed her a bill of \$40 for attending the CACIWC conference on November 14.
8. Elizabeth Street trees.
Murphy reported on the site walk she participated in with Bruce Bennett, town tree warden and owner of the Kent Greenhouse, on November 16, and KCC members Baker and Cherniske. After Spelbos had earlier identified the properties on Elizabeth Street most in need of shade trees, and Murphy had contacted the property owners, Bennett flagged 8 sites on 4 parcels, where 2 disease resistant elms, 2 linden trees, 2 yellowwood trees, 1 red oak and 1 river birch can be planted.
The Kent Greenhouse is able to offer sizeable trees, mostly of 4-4.5" caliper, at close to wholesale price, and will drop them off. Bennett proposed asking HVRHS SciAg students to do the planting as part of their

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curriculum, with supervision by a KGH employee. Spelbos offered his assistance too. Murphy has initiated contact with Dave Moran of HVRHS.

With labor costs at zero the total cost would be roughly \$3500. The homeowners will be asked to pay at least \$250 per tree, with the balance to be paid from the Kuga Fund. The homeowners will be responsible for watering. Murphy will ask them to sign contracts.

Preferred planting date will be the week after Thanksgiving.

At this point Manes entered the meeting, and assumed her role as chairperson.

5. Commissioner terms.

Murphy and Levy are both willing to serve another term, and with unanimous support from the commission Manes will ask the first selectman to reappoint them.

There was some discussion about asking other interested persons to attend the commission meetings, possibly as advisors or auxiliary members, and about attracting a student to the commission.

6. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Campaign.

Levy found the Kent Garden Club unreceptive to adding Kent Recycles signs to the Welcome to Kent signs at the village entrances. Instead we may ask store owners to put clingfilm signs with Kent Recycles in their store windows. It was also suggested to put signs outside IGA reminding people to bring their reusable bags.

A. Grant update.

Manes will continue work on the grant application.

B. America Recycles Day

The KCC hosted a pop-up booth at the Kent Transfer Station on Sunday November 15 to promote recycling. Many transfer station users stopped by the booth, and nearly all signed the petition in support of purchasing permanent recycling bins, which would be placed next to the public garbage containers in the village. Some support was also expressed for creating space for yard waste collection at the transfer station. The KCC will follow up on this with town officials. Manes suggested doing a similar event next Spring in front of the IGA store.

C. Main Street recycling containers

Levy was told by representative Roberta Willis that there is little chance of getting a small grant from the state for recycling containers. He instead wants to ask town officials to use some of the STEAP grant the town is receiving for the purchase and development of a parcel in the village for public use.

Baker proposed contacting the person who constructed the existing wooden garbage containers for the Garden Club, and asking him about custom making similar recycling containers.

D. Temporary event bins.

Manes drafted an evaluation of the event bin usage, which we are required to submit to the bin donor. The commission asked her to complete her evaluation and submit it. She will also ask for different bin tops. Cherniske wants to see mention in the first selectman's online newsletter that the bins can be borrowed by local organizations, residents and businesses.

E. HRRA recycling educator RFQ

Manes brought to the attention of the commission that the HRRA is hiring an outside recycling educator to work with schools.

F. Recycling in the schools

Sommers will check out the recycling situation at Kent Center School.

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7. P&Z Zoning Regulations update.
Manes, Cherniske and Spelbos attended the public meeting on October 22, and provided comments. Levy called for regulating drones, but others don't see the need for local regulation yet.
9. Old Business.
 - A. Trail Brochure/Guide.
Murphy reported that John Baker is making some changes to the maps.
 - B. Hatch Pond Watershed Implementation Committee. No report.
 - C. Roxbury Conservation Commission Well Testing Program. No report.
 - D. Open Space Plan. No report.
10. New Business.
 - A. Natural gas pipeline and plant in Dover, NY.
We will research the issue and implications for Kent. Sommers will check what happened at a recent meeting in Dover.
 - B. Asian longhorned beetle.
Manes was approached about this recently.
13. Correspondence. None.
14. Adjourn. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jos Spelbos
November 28, 2015

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BY *[Signature]*
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