

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

REGULAR MEETING
April 13, 2016

MINUTES

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
KENT TOWN CLERK

2016 MAY -9 A 8:40

BY *Wendy Steady*
TOWN CLERK

Present: Commissioners Liddy Baker, Melissa Cherniske, Carol Franken, Rick Levy, Connie Manes, Wendy Murphy, Donna Sommers; advisors Laurie Doss and Jos Spelbos. Guests: Lynn Worthington (reporter), Karen Bussolini, Lindsey Kerr.

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

- A. Draft Agenda
- B. Draft Minutes, Regular Meeting March 9, 2016
- C. Approved Minutes, Regular Meeting January 13, 2016

1. Call to order.

A quorum being present, Chairperson Connie Manes called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

2. Accept/Amend Agenda.

Item 9H was added to the agenda, after which the amended agenda was unanimously accepted.

3. Review, amend, approve Minutes of Regular Meeting March 9, 2016.

Connie made some additions to the Draft Minutes under items 4, 5, 6B and 9B.

Upon a motion by Wendy seconded by Carol, the Minutes as amended were unanimously approved.

4. Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer Liddy Baker reported that our budget request for 2016/17 was accepted by the BoS and BoF. Our contribution for the Arbor Day tree at the Kent Center School is \$172, payable to Kent Greenhouse, with the Garden Club matching that. Carol bought 4 environmental children's books for the library, and will provide a bill for the Earth Day Village Cleanup posters. Wendy was paid for the bronze plaque she bought for the Arbor Day presentation.

5. Spring events.

A. Arbor Day

Jos reported that a red maple tree has been chosen, which will be planted on April 28 and 29 behind Kent Center School next to the playground, where it will form one of the corners of a planned future outdoor classroom. It is not clear yet if KCS will continue with the Arbor Day tree plantings in coming years. Jos mentioned that the KCS Wildlife Habitat Committee is looking for grants for additional shrub plantings, and is asking the Conservation Commission for a contribution.

Liddy confirmed the Garden Club contribution to the tree planting.

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B. Earth Day Village cleanup

The cleanup is rescheduled for April 15-24. Liddy added some new roads and new volunteers. She handed out garbage and recycling bags to road captains. The Chamber of Commerce paid for the bags. The cleanup will be capped off by a celebration at the transfer station on Sunday April 24 at noon. Rick will bring food and drinks. Liddy will get a cake on April 22 for the South Kent School students, who every year clean up many miles of roads.

Carol redid the posters for the cleanup and will put ten up in town.

C. Library program

Carol reported that Jen Iannucci of the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority will do a program about recycling for young kids at the Kent Memorial Library on Wednesday April 20 at 10.30 a.m., and a hybrid garbage / recycling truck will be there too. Commission members are welcome. Carol bought four children's books to be read at the occasion.

Lindsey suggested listing all our events on Facebook. Connie mentioned that the Chamber of Commerce calendar lists our events.

D. Strolling for ceruleans

Laurie reported that Katie Fallon will speak about cerulean warblers on April 16 at 12.30 at Marvelwood. Audubon representatives will be present too. Two birding hikes are planned for May 29 and June 5 at the Tobin Preserve and at Skiff Mountain South Preserve. Marvelwood students will put together a training video.

6. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Campaign.

A. DEEP Recycling Rewards and Waste Reduction Initiative grant applications.

No new developments

B. Other – IGA shopping list pads

Connie arranged with IGA owner Gary Davis to share in the costs of purchasing magnetic shopping list pads that will be printed with a reminder to bring reusable shopping bags. They can be handed out at the IGA on Earth Day and Memorial Day.

Donna put some of our event recycling bins in the Community House.

Connie and Liddy proposed to buy lids for these bins that indicate the recyclables accepted through the form of the openings and with decals. Carol made a motion to have Liddy order some, up to a cost of \$250; Melissa seconded, and the motion was unanimously accepted.

7. P&Z Zoning Regulations.

There have been no notable developments.

8. Old Business.

A. Trail Brochure/Guide.

Wendy reported that John Baker finished the trail maps, and circulated some of them. The Commission deeply appreciates his work. She is still waiting for comments by the Appalachian Trail Conference (?) on her draft text. Wendy is assisted by Liddy and Laurie. She will contact a layout designer and printer, and hopes to have the guide printed before Memorial Day.

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- B. Hatch Pond Watershed Implementation Committee. No report.
- C. Roxbury Conservation Commission Well Testing Program. No report.
- D. Open Space Plan. No report

9. New Business.

A. CT Trail Days

Connie noted that Sunday June 5 will feature a cerulean warbler hike, and that the hike for June 4 has not been decided yet.

B. Kent Land Trust Memorial Day Picnic. Tabled

C. RBV field cards. Tabled

D. Update on HVA culverts project.

Connie reported that the HVA has completed its culvert inventory in Sharon, documenting which culverts impede aquatic wildlife movement, and is working on the same in Kent. Lynn noted that DEEP fish passage requirements add considerable cost to the town in the case of the Carter Road culvert replacement.

E. Legislative update

Connie stated that because of the state's budget problems less money will be available for environmental and land protection programs. The CT Land Conservation Council will hold a lobby day at the state Capitol on April 20.

F. Collection of data for iNaturalist-type programs

Connie would like to discuss the role the Conservation Commission can play in encouraging such data collection in a future meeting.

G. Big night

Several commission members went out on recent rainy nights to observe the Spring migration of amphibians at road crossings.

H. NHCOG meeting

Connie and Jos have joined a Northwest Hills Council of Governments advisory committee of land use commissioners representing the 21 towns in the region, to give local feedback on the development and implementation of a new regional Plan of Conservation and Development. Jocelyn Ayers will visit all Planning and Zoning Commissions in the second half of this year and conduct an online survey. Next Spring focus group sessions will be held and a draft plan will be released.

The NHCOG also hopes to set up a regional food hub next year where local farmers can connect with food serving businesses and institutions.

10. Correspondence. See email distributing agenda.

11. Adjourn. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8.32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jos Spelbos May 8, 2016

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