

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

REGULAR MEETING
July 13, 2016

MINUTES

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
KENT TOWN CLERK

2016 AUG 17 A 10:04

Wendy Bradley
TOWN CLERK

Present: Commissioners Liddy Baker, Melissa Cherniske, Carol Franken, Connie Manes, Wendy Murphy, Donna Sommers; Advisor Jos Spelbos. Reporter Lynn Worthington.

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

- A. Draft Agenda
- B. Approved Minutes of Regular Meeting May 11, 2016
- C. Draft Minutes of the Special Meeting June 22 2016
- D. Information on the State's plastic film recycling (WRAP) program
- E. Proposed plantings for Eastern Gateway improvements
- F. Rural Character Survey
- G. Information on proposed cell tower in Amenias

1. Call to order.

A quorum being present, Connie called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

2. Accept/Amend Agenda.

The agenda was amended to add under New Business "Seaplanes". Upon a motion by Carol seconded by Melissa the amended agenda was unanimously accepted.

3. Review, amend, approve Minutes of Special Meeting June 22, 2016.

The minutes were amended to reflect that the Commission will create promotional and instructional information about the Temporary Event Bins for posting on the town website. Carol will begin composing draft language for review and supplementation. Upon a motion by Liddy seconded by Melissa, the minutes as amended were unanimously approved.

4. Treasurer's Report.

Liddy reported that the Commission has not booked any expenses in the past month. Income from the Kent Trails books are being deposited into the Kuga Fund..

5. Kent's Eastern Gateway – Beautification proposal (John Baker, Ellen Corsell).

The Commission discussed John Baker's proposal for plantings along Maple Street (Rte 341) that would help screen businesses operating on Maple Street Extension. Connie shared comments forwarded by Lindsey Kerr, who could not be at the meeting. The Commission expressed concern about not setting a precedent of paying for landscaping installation on private property. The discussion was tabled until the September meeting when John Baker and Ellen

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Corsell can be present to explain their efforts to date, and discuss maps they have prepared. Liddy will forward the maps to Jos prior to September's meeting.

6. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Campaign.
 - A. Streetside Containers.
We continue to await DEEP's public announcement and funds.
 - B. KAB Parks Grant.
We continue to await news of our application.
 - C. WRAP. The Commissioners discussed materials distributed prior to the meeting and outlining the State's plan for participation in the national WRAP campaign for recycling plastic film. Upon a motion by Melissa seconded by Wendy the Commission unanimously voted to participate in the campaign. The Commission will ask First Selectman Bruce Adams to share information about the campaign in his Town eNews, and discussed implementing a monthly series of recycling tips and reminders.
 - D. Other.
The Commission discussed the recent Kent Memorial Library gala. The Library considered, but ultimately did not use the Temporary Event Bins. They did, however, implement other recycling practices at the gala. The Commission discussed ways to encourage recycling at events. We will research whether others have put together outlines for recycling at events, and add a template "recycling plan" to the materials we plan for our webpage about the Temporary Event Bins.
7. Kent Hikes – Challenge. Connie shared Lindsey's comments on ways to implement a trails challenge. Connie will email Lindsey and ask her to continue to develop the idea for a roll-out next Memorial Day or summer season.
8. Proposed Cell Tower in Amenia.
The Commission discussed the information about the potential impacts of the proposed cell tower. The impacts include impairment of views from Kent, particularly from Macedonia Brook State Park. Melissa made a motion that the Commission write a letter to the Amenia Zoning Board of Appeals. Wendy seconded the motion and it passed, with one abstention.
9. P&Z Zoning Regulations. The P&Z met with Mike Ziska and []. There may be additional changes before the draft regulations are ready for adoption.
10. NCRI update. Wendy will assign chapters to each Commissioner, for review and suggestions for updates in the September meeting.
11. Northwest Hills Council of Governments POCD Update. Jos and Connie attended a recent meeting in Morris to discuss agriculture in the COG region, and recommendations for the transportation section of the POCD. The COG put together a table showing how different towns

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have adopted farm-friendly regulations and other supportive strategies. Connie will ensure that they have complete information on strategies in Kent.

A graduate student at Antioch University is conducting a survey to research the many things that impact residents' experience of "rural character" in our region. The Commissioners will complete the survey and encourage others to participate.

12. Old Business.

- A. Hatch Pond Watershed Implementation Committee. Tabled.
- B. Roxbury Conservation Commission Well Testing Program. Tabled.
- C. Open Space Plan. Tabled.
- D. HVA culverts project. HVA has completed data collection for their culverts study, and is willing to present its data. The Commission will help to arrange this, perhaps in late Fall 2016.
- E. KCC's role in encouraging collection of data for iNaturalist-type programs. Tabled.
- F. 2016 RBV. Tabled.
- G. Green Plan. Tabled.
- H. Turtles crossing. Tabled.

13. New Business.

The Commission discussed the newly-adopted "Seaplane Ordinance" prohibiting seaplane landings in Lake Waramaug. The Commission discussed other waterbodies in Kent and how best to address the risks presented by invasive plants. Melissa moved that the Commission send a letter to the Inland Wetlands Commission to open a discussion about regulatory and other strategies. Carol seconded the motion and it passed with one abstention.

14. Adjourn. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Manes
August 17, 2016

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BY *Connie Manes*
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