

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

## REGULAR MEETING November 9, 2016

## MINUTES

Present: Commissioners Liddy Baker, Carol Franken, Rick Levy, Connie Manes, Wendy Murphy, Donna Sommers. Advisors Laurie Doss, Jos Spelbos.

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

- A. Draft Agenda
- B. Approved Minutes of Special Meeting September 21, 2016
- C. Draft Minutes of Special Meeting October 19, 2016
- D. Draft 2017 KCC Meeting Calendar
- 1. <u>Call to order.</u> A quorum being present, Connie called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.
- 2. <u>Accept/Amend Agenda</u>.

The draft Agenda was amended to add under 14. New Business "Panda Power Plant". Upon a motion by Carol seconded by Liddy the amended agenda was unanimously accepted.

- <u>Review, amend, approve minutes of Special Meeting October 19, 2016</u>.
  Upon a motion by Carol seconded by Liddy, the Minutes were unanimously approved.
- <u>Treasurer's Report</u>.
  Liddy presented her written and oral Treasurer's Report. Since the last meeting there was one expense to reimburse a CACIWC Annual Conference registration fee.
- 5. <u>Public Comment</u> None.
- 6. <u>Commissioner Terms</u>.

The terms of commissioners Liddy Baker and Melissa Cherniske will end December 2016. Both are willing to serve for successive terms. Upon a motion by Carol seconded by Wendy, the Commission voted to seek Liddy and Melissa's reappointment by First Selectman Bruce Adams. The Commissioners discussed the offices, in advance of appointments in January.

7. <u>Annual Meeting Dates</u>.

The commissioners discussed the proposed dates of meeting for 2017. It was determined to move the time of meetings held in the winter months (Jan, Feb, March, Nov, Dec) to 6:30 pm. Upon a motion by Wendy seconded by Connie, the Commission approved the calendar of meetings for 2017. Connie will file the calendar with the Town Clerk.

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- 8. <u>Annual Activities Calendar</u>. Connie will distribute a draft 2017 Calendar of Activities for consideration at the December meeting.
- 9. <u>NCRI Update</u>. Wendy reported that she continues to make progress on the NCRI update. As it has become clear that we will not be able to finish an update in time for holiday sales, Wendy recommends that the update be approached in a more methodical and thorough way. Commissioners accepted additional chapters for review and comment. Jos will investigate updating the appendices maps.
- 10. <u>Local Important Farmland Soils</u>. First Selectman Bruce Adams sent a letter to the Natural Resources Conservation Service to initiate the process of having Kent's Local Important Farmland Soils mapped and officially recognized for state and federal programs.
- 11. <u>Fall Tree Planting</u>. The Commissioners discussed whether it is appropriate, given drought conditions, to conduct tree planting this year. Last week Marvelwood students and the Kent Volunteer Fire Department thoroughly watered trees planted on Elizabeth Street in fall 2015. Kent Greenhouse & Gardens has offered the Commission several pines and hemlocks free of charge, and two birches at wholesale prices. The Commission discussed potential planting sites, including near the Town Garage, across Rte 341 on Kent's "Eastern Gateway", and near Town Hall, but did not come to any conclusion. Liddy will follow up with Bruce Bennett and Rick Osborne about potential planting sites and required watering and maintenance following planting.
- 12. <u>Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Campaign</u>.
  - A. Streetside Containers. There has been no update from the state. The Commission discussed adding a budget line request for streetside recycling containers to its 2017 budget request.
  - B. WRAP School Grant Program. Melissa and Connie were unable to discuss the WRAP grant with Kent Center School administration, and will be unable to apply for a grant.
  - C. Other America Recycles Day (Be Recycled) Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Melissa and Connie were unable to discuss ideas for school observance of this year's America Recycles Day. No event is planned.

## 13. 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. Tabled
- E. Turtle Crossing Signs. Tabled
- F. Kent Hikes Challenge. Tabled
- G. P&Z Zoning Regulations. Tabled
- H. NHCOG POCD Update. Connie spoke with Lynn Stoddard about solar energy programs in Connecticut. The Commission will discuss model ordinances and programs as an agenda item in an upcoming meeting.
- I. Water Saving Tips. Tabled.

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## 10. New Business.

- A. Panda Power Plant. Following strong grass-roots community opposition including that presented at public meetings earlier this week, the Town of New Milford has decided to withdraw from further consideration of a potential natural gas power plant at the site of the former Century Brass mill.
- 11. <u>Correspondence</u> None.

12.

<u>Adjourn</u>. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Manes December 13, 2016



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