

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

REGULAR MEETING
January 13, 2016

MINUTES

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
KENT TOWN CLERK
2016 MAR -8 P 2:28
BY *Dana Brady*
TOWN CLERK

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

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

- A. Draft Agenda
- B. Draft Minutes, Regular Meeting December 9, 2015
- C. Approved Minutes, Regular Meeting November 18, 2015
- D. Draft KCC Activities Calendar for 2016
- E. Correspondence, including:
 - Info about the HRRRA poster contest and plastic bag recycling
 - News of Washington, DC's new law banning Styrofoam
 - News of the DEEP Waste Reduction Initiative grants
 - Regional Recycling Task Force agenda and minutes
 - Colchester Land Trust Cost of Community Services study
 - EPA Environmental Merit Awards and Green Circle Sustainability Awards calls for nominations
 - Information about radon testing in CT

1. Call to order.

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

2. Accept/Amend Agenda.

Upon a motion by Carol Franken seconded by Melissa Cherniske, the agenda was unanimously accepted.

3. Review, amend, approve Minutes of Regular Meeting November 18, 2015.

Upon a motion by Carol Franken seconded by Melissa Cherniske, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 18, 2015 were unanimously approved without changes.

4. Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer Liddy Baker reported that she paid membership dues to state organizations, and that payments were made to the Kuga Fund by the homeowners on Elizabeth Street who had received new street trees. No invoice has been received yet from Kent Greenhouse; Melissa will contact them.

5. Annual Planning: activities calendar for 2016 and budget for 2016/17.

The Commissioners discussed and approved the working draft Calendar of Activities for 2016, revised by Connie.

Based on the planned activities and estimated costs some adjustments were made in several line items of the current budget. \$500 for recycling was allocated to purchasing lids for the event recycling containers. Carol proposed adding some money for buying recycling books for the public library.

These are Draft Minutes and are not considered final until approved. Corrections may be made by the Commission at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to subsequent meeting minutes for possible changes or corrections.

Upon a motion by Connie, seconded by Carol, the commission unanimously decided to ask Liddy to submit a budget request for \$2775, the same amount as last year, with the adjustments discussed in this meeting.

6. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Campaign.

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

Connie will submit an application for a \$2000 RR grant this month, and will after that try to find time to draft a WRI application. The money can be used towards buying permanent recycling containers for the village center, and other activities. She will also send a letter to the Chamber of Commerce requesting \$1500 to help pay for the containers. At this point it looks like the visitor center/ restrooms grant cannot be used for containers elsewhere.

B. HRRA Poster contest – “Bags to Riches”. The theme for this year’s Kent Center School poster contest is the reduction, reuse and recycling of plastic bags. Donna and Melissa will create an info sheet for teachers. Melissa and Connie will look into the possibilities of printing the winning design of the contest on reusable cloth bags that can be given to the participating school kids. The contest is an Earth Day event, but may be combined with the Arbor Day celebration.

C. Other – IGA.

Connie noted that Gary Davis is interested in the notepad idea. Connie and Carol will follow up with HRRA for funding assistance.

7. P&Z Zoning Regulations.

The commission briefly discussed the Incentive Housing Zone proposal. Jos would like to tie it to a Transfer of Development Rights from nearby conservation-worthy parcels of the same property owners. He will check how other towns in CT have used the TDR mechanism.

8. Trees.

A. Connie will draft an application for the CT Urban Forestry America The Beautiful Grant for additional street tree planting next year, and for a tree at the Seven Hearths house.

B. Wendy priced out the cost of a bronze plaque in recognition of Bruce Bennett’s contributions to the town’s treescape. Connie moved to authorize Wendy to buy such plaque, up to a cost of \$250; Carol seconded, and the commission unanimously approved.

9. Old Business.

A. Trail Brochure/Guide.

Wendy gave a short update, and noted that this would be a KCC publication, not a joint KCC / KLT one.

B. Hatch Pond Watershed Implementation Committee. No report.

C. Roxbury Conservation Commission Well Testing Program. No report.

D. Open Space Plan.

Connie commented that she thinks the Colchester Cost of Community Services Study and Fiscal Value of Land Use Study could be models for Kent when we are ready to lobby for a land acquisition fund.

10. New Business.

A. CT Trail Days. Connie noted that Laurie Doss will organize a birding oriented hike. She next solicited ideas for a second, more strenuous hike, and will consider the options discussed.

B. Radon testing. Melissa shared a link from the Roxbury Conservation Commission regarding the availability of free radon testing kits from the CT Department of Public Health

These are Draft Minutes and are not considered final until approved. Corrections may be made by the Commission at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to subsequent meeting minutes for possible changes or corrections.

11. Correspondence.
Melissa had emailed a link to a new Washington, DC law banning Styrofoam.
Connie asked members to think of candidates for the EPA and DEEP awards.
She also referred to the meeting minutes of the HRRA's Regional Recycling Task Force.
12. Adjourn. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jos Spelbos
January 24, 2016

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
KENT TOWN CLERK
2016 MAR -8 P 2:29
BY *Vanessa Steady* TR
TOWN CLERK

These are Draft Minutes and are not considered final until approved. Corrections may be made by the Commission at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to subsequent meeting minutes for possible changes or corrections.