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**By Darlene Brady at 12:46 pm, Sep 29, 2023**



## TOWN OF KENT

Conservation Commission

Special Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 28, 2023 @ 7:00pm

In attendance:  
Mike Benjamin  
Melissa Cherniske  
Carol Franken  
Connie Manes  
Jos Spelbos

Members of the Public Attending: Lynn Worthington

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### Call to order

1. A quorum being present, Commission Chair Connie Manes called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Melissa Cherniske moved to elevate alternate Mike Benjamin to voting status. Connie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
2. Accept/Amend Minutes Regular Meeting September 13, 2023. Tabled until next meeting.
3. Public Comment. None.
4. Discussion items
  - A. Proposal for Purchase of Street Trees – The commissioners reviewed the proposal prepared by Jos Spelbos and Bruce Bennett to plant three trees on Elizabeth Street. It remains unclear whether the trees would be planted within the state's Right of Way or on the properties of Nordic Property Management.

The cost to purchase and plant the trees is estimated at \$1400-\$1500, which would be paid from the Kuga Fund. The tree prices are wholesale and Rick Osborne has offered to help using town equipment which saves on labor costs.

According to Bruce Bennett, Nordic Property Management has given permission for trees to be planted on their property. They have not committed to maintaining the trees (Bruce and Jos have volunteered to do the watering this fall).

Commissioners discussed prior occasions when the commission funded and planted trees after obtaining the written commitment of private property owners to provide both a share (50%) of the cost of the trees and be responsible for ongoing maintenance. The commissioners discussed whether this would be the appropriate cost share and decided to review how other Connecticut towns approach tree planting on private property. Wendy Murphy may have a copy of the form the Commission used in 2015 to secure the written commitment of private property owners.

The commissioners determined to continue discussion at the Regular Meeting of October 11<sup>th</sup>, by which time they hope to know with certainty where the trees will be planted (whether or not on private property). If the trees will be planted on private property, the commissioners hope to know whether the

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property owners are willing to commit to sharing the cost of the planting as well as to maintaining the trees. The commission will develop a formal structure and guidelines for its planting program going forward.

- B. Report on Farmer Protection Ordinance Revisions. Connie reported that the Board of Selectmen's meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> was cancelled and has yet to be rescheduled. She will ensure that the ordinance revisions are placed on the agenda for the next BOS meeting. She will additionally ask to have the matter placed on the agenda for the next Planning & Zoning Commission meeting on Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>.
- C. Adjourn. There being no further business before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 7:43pm.

*NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday October 11 @ 7:00pm*

Respectfully submitted by: Connie Manes, Chair

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