

# KENT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Kent Town Hall  
41 Kent Green Boulevard  
Kent, Connecticut 06757

## REGULAR MEETING

July 21, 2021

## MINUTES

Present: Melissa Cherniske, Carol Franken, Connie Manes, Jos Spelbos. Guest Whitney Troy.

Prior to the meeting an agenda was distributed via email and recorded by the Town Clerk. The meeting took place using Zoom video-conferencing and was recorded. A copy of the recording is available in the Town records.

1. Call to order.  
A quorum being present Chair Connie Manes called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
2. Accept/Amend Agenda.  
Upon a motion by Melissa seconded by Carol the agenda as presented was unanimously accepted.
3. The minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 16, 2021 as well as the Special Meeting June 24, 2021 will be reviewed and approved at the Commission's September meeting.
4. Treasurer's Report and Budget.  
Treasurer Liddy Baker circulated a report prior to the meeting showing no expenses for the fiscal year begun July 1, 2021.
5. Public Comment  
None.
6. Presentation – Pollinator Pathways  
The Commission welcomed Whitney Troy, who is serving as a summer intern at the Kent Land Trust as part of her degree program at Mount Holyoke College. Whitney is working to help establish a Pollinator Pathway program in Kent. So far 70 towns in Connecticut have implemented Pollinator Pathway programs. Whitney delivered a PowerPoint presentation explaining the concept and purpose of Pollinator Pathway programs, and the components of Kent's program which have included community outreach at Kent's Farmer's Market and other public events, planting demonstration gardens and habitats at Kent Land Trust preserves, engaging the partnership of the Kent Garden Club, and planning a public presentation at Kent Memorial Library in collaboration with the Garden Club. Whitney reviewed some of the ways that town governments have participated in Pollinator Pathway programs, including by adopting municipal pledges or resolutions of support for such programs, and adopting aligned land management practices on municipal lands. Many towns do this as part of their Sustainable CT certification.

Following her presentation Whitney answered questions about pollinator friendly land management practices, and joined in discussion of additional ways to bring forward this initiative. The Conservation Commission is interested in partnering in the program with a threefold goal:

1. To help community landowners and gardeners learn more and adopt pollinator-friendly practices.

These are draft minutes. Corrections may be made by the Commission at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to subsequent meeting minutes for possible corrections and approval of these minutes.

2. To work with the town to understand current town land management practices to determine if improvements could be made and how.
  3. To explore whether it would be appropriate to ask for adoption of a resolution.
- The Commission thanked Whitney for her presentation and excellent work this summer.

7. Old Business

A. Planning & Zoning Regulations – Connie and Jos reported that following meetings on June 24<sup>th</sup> and July 8<sup>th</sup>, the Planning & Zoning Commission adopted revisions to its regulations allowing for conservation subdivisions in the Village Residential District. The application for a subdivision on property on Route 7 just north of town will be heard at the Planning & Zoning Commission's meeting on August 12<sup>th</sup>.

B. Waste Management in Kent and CT – There is nothing new to report on this item.

C. Sustainable CT in Kent – Connie reported that she spoke with First Selectman Jean Speck and proposed that the town's subcommittee on Sustainable CT interview the Conservation Commission to understand the current and past community practices relating to the required categories. Jean was enthusiastic about this idea and said she would propose it to the subcommittee.

D. Kent POCD revision – Connie reported that she attended the Planning & Zoning Commission's meeting on June 29<sup>th</sup> regarding the planned POCD update. The Commission's consultant has prepared a survey to solicit input from the community. The survey is planned to be publicly available later this summer. This Commission can help to encourage a robust response by sharing the survey link and information on social media and otherwise.

E. CT Post Legislative Session – The Planning & Zoning Commission sponsored a special meeting at which the town's attorney Mike Zizka discussed several new laws passed at the close of the legislative session that may impact the town, including 1) convoluted provisions on accessory apartments – for which the town will likely wish to request a waiver, 2) provisions related to the state's legalization of marijuana, and 3) provisions extending through April 2022 the pandemic-driven procedures for the conduct of municipal public meetings. This Commission again discussed the idea of inviting Kent's elected state Senator and Representative to a meeting this fall.

F. WCCAA – The Commission discussed newly-released information about the prospective switch at Cricket Valley Hydroelectric Plant from natural gas to hydrogen fuel. Carol reported that the WCCAA group is discussing this new development to better understand the feasibility and environmental impact of the shift. Carol also reported that the group expects to have in hand a report on CT's air quality, which may shed light on Cricket Valley's impact on the region's air quality since it has been operating.

G. Kent Trails: A Hiker's Guide – Nothing new to report on this item.

8. New Business – None.

9. Correspondence – None.

10. Adjourn.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> (2d Wednesday due to the observance of Yom Kippur this September 15-16).

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Manes

These are draft minutes. Corrections may be made by the Commission at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to subsequent meeting minutes for possible corrections and approval of these minutes.