

TOWN CLERK

BY

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
October 10, 2018

Present: Commissioners Liddy Baker, Melissa Cherniske, Carol Franken, Rick Levy, Wendy Murphy and Donna Sommers; advisor Jos Spelbos; guests Peter Jensen and Maddy Stevens. Absent: Connie Manes.

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

- A. Draft Agenda
- B. Draft Minutes of Meeting of September 12, 2018
- C. Approved Minutes of the July 2018 meeting
- D. Treasurer's report for October
- E. NHCOG forum flyer

1. Call to order.

Vice-chair Carol Franken called the meeting to order at 7.02 pm.

2. Accept/Amend Agenda.

After Rick moved to discuss 6F before 6A the agenda was unanimously accepted upon a motion by Melissa, seconded by Rick.

3. Review, amend, approve meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by Melissa, seconded by Rick, the Minutes of the September 12 regular meeting were unanimously approved.

4. Treasurer's report

Liddy reported no new expenses in the past month. There will probably not be a need to contribute to plantings for the KCS schoolyard project.

5. Public Comment

Peter Jensen and Maddy Stevens were present to participate in the discussion about recycling.

6. Old Business

6A. Recycling initiatives

6A1. Straws and single-use plastics

Peter reported that he and Connie met with the Chamber of Commerce on October 1 to discuss minimizing the use of plastic straws and other single-use plastics. Chamber members were supportive, and several have taken actions to reduce their use already. CoC chairman Tim Good proposed setting up a focus group with involved merchants to educate, encourage and enable. The commission asked that Peter,

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Connie and Maddy Stevens join this group, and that food merchants who are not part of the Chamber of Commerce, as well as schools be involved too.

Maddy is a home-schooled high school senior who founded Guardians of the Globe, a group of students who are passionate about reducing plastic pollution.

The KCC Facebook page has seen quite a number of comments about single-use plastic.

Carol has done a preliminary inventory of the use of alternatives by local merchants. Peter plans to create a spreadsheet showing businesses and their uses of plastic and alternatives, and asked that the Conservation Commission survey what businesses are doing about recycling.

6A2. HRRA glass recycling

Bruce Adams told Carol that the separate recycling of glass proposed by HRRA is not ready to be implemented yet.

6A3. WRAP

Connie will probably place the plastic bag and film recycling boxes at Kent Center School on America Recycles Day November 15.

6B. Western CT Clean Air Action

Carol updated the commission on the September 26 meeting with DEEP at the town hall. DEEP does not have the funding or staffing to provide for air quality monitoring, nor does it see this as a priority. The task force is now looking for other funding sources.

6C. Protect CT public lands ballot question

Carol handed out palm cards that explain ballot question #2 regarding a state constitutional amendment requiring a higher bar before the legislature can sell, swap or give away state land. Carol will put some cards on bulletin boards and explain the issue on the KCC Facebook page. Connie asked the first selectman to address it in the town online newsletter. Liddy will spread the word at the informal Club. See protectctpubliclands.org.

6D. Use of road salt in Kent

Liddy will approach Rick Osborne about the town's usage.

6E. Fracking waste ordinance

Tabled

6F. Tree planting

Rick reported that the veteran's memorial tree sponsored by the commission has recently been planted by Kent Greenhouse near the memorial on Maple Street. A plaque and bench will be added. The tree will be dedicated on Veteran's Day November 11 or 12.

6G. NCRI resource maps

Tabled

6H. HVA-Greenprint Regional corridors and connectors

Tabled

6I. Sustainable CT

Tabled

6J. Welcome to Kent brochure

At Donna's advice this item will be taken off the agenda.

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- 6K. Trails brochure
Liddy has about 50 copies left.
7. New Business
- 7A. Planning for Agritourism Forum by NHCOG
The Northwest Hills Council of Governments hosts a forum on agritourism on NW-CT farms October 17 at 6.30 pm at its office in Goshen.
- 7B. New litter cleanup signs
Carol discarded the old signs. Donna and Melissa will work on a new sign with a vendor.
8. Correspondence
On November 17 the annual conference of the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions will be held in Cromwell, see caciwc.org.
9. Adjourn.
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8.30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jos Spelbos
October 29, 2018

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