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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
February 13, 2019

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

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

- A. Draft Agenda by Carol
- B. Draft Minutes of Meeting of January 9, 2019
- C. Approved Minutes of the December 12, 2018 meeting
- D. Draft budget 2019/20 by Liddy, January 10

1. Call to order.
Chairperson Connie Manes called the meeting to order at 6.33 pm.
2. Accept/Amend Agenda.
After deciding to discuss item 7A before item 4 the agenda was unanimously accepted after a motion by Wendy, seconded by Liddy.
3. Review, amend, approve meeting Minutes
Upon a motion by Liddy, seconded by Wendy, the draft Minutes of the January 9 regular meeting were unanimously approved without changes.
4. WCCAA Update
Wendy and Carol reported that the Board of Selectmen prefers to place the \$4500 town contribution towards the purchase of the air quality monitoring station at Kent School under the Conservation Commission budget for 2019/20. This means it won't be available until July, but Kent School has agreed to this. The towns of Sherman and Cornwall have ordered their own satellite monitors.
5. Treasurer's report and budget
Liddy prepared a draft budget request for 2019/20 that includes the one-time \$4500 air monitor expense requested by the Board of Selectmen. With \$2495 for regular KCC expenses the total proposed budget is \$6995. After some discussion and some minor adjustments Wendy made a motion, seconded by Connie, and the budget request was unanimously approved. Liddy will present it to the town treasurer. The new treasurer's report lists recent expenses for dues and road cleanup signs totaling \$530.

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.

6. Public Comment

Peter and Maddy are planning to report on the recycling initiatives. Maddy is also organizing a climate strike in Kent on March 15 as part of an international effort to draw attention to climate change. John Grant is a member of the Park and Recreation Commission. His commission is planning improvements at the two town parks: Emery Park and Kent Commons Park.

7. Old Business

7A. Recycling initiatives

7A1. Straws and single-use plastics

Peter Jensen presented a spreadsheet with the results so far of his survey of the use of single-use plastics in various local businesses. He will continue his survey, but asked commissioners to think about next steps we can take to help the town cut back on these plastics. Our motto is “educate, encourage and enable”. One step is to make merchants more aware of what steps others are taking, since some businesses have made improvements already. Student Maddy Stevens has talked to KCS schoolkids about the problems with single-use plastic, and will continue to help the school find alternatives. She received an award for her efforts from the Board of Education.

Both have the support of the commission. Carol noted that the state legislature has introduced various bills to reduce s-u plastics. Discussion took place about further promoting reusable cloth bags. John mentioned that IGA has given away 500 cloth bags. Carol noted that the library would like us to do a program about recycling and plastics.

7A2. WRAP – Trex Recycling Challenge at KCS

Connie has been regularly taking the plastic bags and film collected at KCS to the BigY supermarket for recycling. Participation is good, but a second bin doesn't seem needed.

7A3. Glass separation

The Kent Transfer Station will for the moment not collect glass separately from other recyclables. Some towns are running a pilot program first.

7B. Use of road salt in Kent

Tabled

7C. Review April events

Liddy's organization of the town road cleanup April 12-20 is progressing well.

Carol showed some children books about clean air to be used at the library event. She is now planning to do the workshop on April 17 herself.

Jos will contact Ane Starr about selecting a tree and location for the Arbor Day planting at KCS on April 26.

7D. Tree planting

Jos checked out the various trees in town sponsored by the commission in recent years for maintenance needs and reported that some of the trees at KCS need some pruning, while most trees look good. The commission authorized him to do the pruning himself at a cost of between \$100 and \$150.

7E,F NCRI and resource maps and Trails brochure

Jos sent his changes to the Critical Habitats chapter to Wendy. He is working with the HVA on a new soil-based zoning map. Wendy wants to finish updating the trail book before she can fully concentrate on updating the Natural and Cultural Riches Inventory. She proposed inviting geologist Roger Thorson to do a talk about the local geology. Jos will send Liddy a map of the new Avian preserves.

7G. Fracking waste ordinance

Tabled

8. New Business

8A. Goals and strategies for 2019

Connie proposed as a goal a more effective use of time by having point persons for each initiative and less discussion with the whole group.

9. Correspondence

Connie mentioned that local resident James Barron, who took Al Gore's training course, is planning to do a presentation about Climate Change on May 18, sponsored by the Kent Land Trust and the Kent Memorial Library.

10. Adjourn.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7.58 pm.
The next meeting will be moved to March 20 at 6.30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jos Spelbos
February 24, 2019