

KENT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Kent Town Hall
41 Kent Green Boulevard
Kent, Connecticut 06757

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

April 10, 2019

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

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

- A. Draft Agenda by Carol
- B. Draft Minutes of Meeting of March 20, 2019
- C. Approved Minutes of the February meeting
- D. Email from Wendy to Lynn Werner, IWC, March 21, 2019

1. Call to order
Connie called the meeting to order at 7.08 pm.
2. Accept/amend agenda
Upon a motion by Wendy, seconded by Rick, the agenda was unanimously accepted.
3. Review, amend, approve meeting Minutes
Upon a motion by Wendy, seconded by Connie, the draft Minutes of the March 20 special meeting were unanimously approved with a small change to 4C.
4. Treasurer's report
Liddy's treasurer's report showed recent expenses of \$82.94 for Arbor Day student posters and \$65 for the CLCC conference. There was a \$100 payment from the Kuga Fund for pruning previous KCC sponsored trees.
5. Old Business
 - 5A. Recycling initiatives
 - 5A1. Single-use plastics
An article in the Waterbury Republican American newspaper by Lynn Worthington reports on the survey done by Peter Jensen with help from Maddy Stevens. Maddy has drafted a press release for other papers, which is being edited by Carol and Connie.

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2019 MAY -6 A 8:55

BY *Wendy Bracy*
TOWN CLERK

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5A2. WRAP – Trex Recycling Challenge at KCS

Connie reported that she has collected more than 50 pounds of plastic bags and film from the KCS collection box. She will present her data to the Trex company by Earth Day. Trex will award participating schools.

The town of Washington is voting on banning single-use plastic bags in April. Liddy reported that Gary Davis of the IGA will be talking at the Informal Club meeting, and he can be asked about bagging ideas. Carol would like to invite him to our meeting.

5A3. CT legislative bills update

Connie and Maddy will check on the status of recycling and plastics related legislative proposals in the state legislature.

5A4. HRRA recycling

The Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority has developed a spreadsheet listing what each town recycles.

5B. Review April events

5B1. Litter pick-up

Liddy circulated a map that shows all the roads that have crews signed up for cleaning between April 12 and 27, and more were being added. Donna put out signs notifying people of the clean-up effort, and she will ask Melissa to order two more signs. Carol produced flyers and listed the event on the KCC Facebook page. Liddy is ordering cakes to thank participating scouts and students.

5B2. On Saturday April 27 at 9.30 the end of the clean-up will be celebrated with drinks and snacks at the Transfer Station.

5B3. Library Earth Day program

Carol redid the flyer announcing the April 17 program, and purchased three children's books on air. Kent Greenhouse will donate plants for the participating children.

5B5. Arbor Day tree planting

Jos will lead a number of KCS students in digging a hole at the front right corner of the school on April 25, after which Kent Greenhouse will deliver a crabapple tree. On Friday April 26 at 2pm the tree will be ceremonially planted with the whole school in attendance. Afterwards in the school gym awards will be presented for recycling posters. The tree will be paid for by the commission. Liddy will approach the Garden Club for a contribution.

5B6. Park & Rec Arbor Day collaboration

P&R member John Grant asked us to take part in a free tree handout event for residents at Kent Commons Park on April 26 after school hours. The tree seedlings are donated by Bartlett Tree.

5C. Use of road salt in Kent

Wendy wrote a letter to IWC chair Lynn Werner asking for that commission's input on road salt use and effects. Connie noted that the CT Dept. of Transportation has funding to, in collaboration with UConn-CLEAR, set up training sessions for public works staffs and contractors about cutting back on road salt, under the Green SnowPro program.

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- 5D. WCCAA update
Wendy and Carol reported that representatives Maria Horn and Julie Kushner have introduced a bill asking DEEP to support local efforts to monitor the air related to the Cricket Valley powerplant in Dover. But the WCCAA is looking for additional expert help to interpret the air quality data.
- 5E. NCRI Tabled
- 5F. Kent Trails Guide Tabled
- 5G. Fracking waste ordinance Tabled
- 5H. KCC Mission statement
Carol would like to see a shorter mission statement, that can be used on our Facebook page and in other descriptions of what we do and stand for. Connie gave some suggestions.
6. New Business
- 6A. CLCC conference feedback
Connie and Jos attended the March 23 annual conference of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council in Middletown. Jos gave a short report on the sessions he attended, including a keynote talk by the new DEEP commissioner Katie Dykes, and a presentation by HVA staff on the use of "story maps" as effective communication tools. The commissioner asked attendees to make residents more aware of the new Passport for the Parks program, which allows residents free access to state parks, paid for by a \$10 fee on car registration renewals.
- 6B. Climate change program at Kent Library
This program has been postponed to an uncertain date.
7. Correspondence
None
8. Adjourn.
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9.02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jos Spelbos
May 4, 2019

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BY

Donna Brady
TOWN CLERK

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