

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
April 11, 2018

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

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

- A. Draft Agenda
- B. Draft Minutes of Meeting of March 14, 2018
- C. Approved Minutes of the February 2018 meeting

1. Call to order.
A quorum being present chair Connie Manes called the meeting to order at 7.06 pm.
2. Accept/Amend Agenda.
Upon a motion by Liddy seconded by Wendy the agenda was unanimously accepted. It was decided to move the Cricket Valley power plant discussion to the beginning of the meeting.
3. Review, amend, approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 14, 2018.
Upon a motion by Wendy seconded by Connie the Minutes were unanimously approved, after making an amendment to 6J reflecting that the WRAP bins come from Trex not DEEP.
4. Treasurer's report
Liddy reported that \$800 has been paid from the regular budget to HVA for the GIS resource mapping, and \$18 for kid's library books about birds.
5. Public Comment
Suzanne Charity was present the first part of the meeting to take part in discussing the power plant.
6. Old Business
 - 6C. Cricket Valley Power Plant
Carol, Connie and Jos attended and reported on the informational meeting in Sherman on April 8, organized by the Sherman Conservation Commission. Construction on the gas-fired powerplant along route 22 in Dover, NY has started already. Some opponents hoped that appealing to the NY State energy-rate setting board NYISO to lower the rate the plant can charge for electricity, can make the project unprofitable and halt it. The CT-DEEP and the CT attorney general have indicated that they don't want to oppose the plant, since NY-DEC has approved the project, and most of Dutchess County legislators support it.

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Connie considers litigation the best option to stop the power plant at this point, and urged opponents to get involved in the stopcricketvalley group. Suzanne Charity questioned why most residents in western Connecticut are still unaware of the plant. She and Wendy will draft a letter to the Kent Board of Selectmen asking them to get together with neighboring towns and explore what can be done to stop the plant, or at least to consider setting up monitoring stations to measure before and after emissions. A video of the Sherman meeting is available on the Sherman Conservation Commission Facebook page, and Connie will email us a link to the video. Rick suggested providing it to local access tv channels.

6A. P&Z Zoning revisions Public hearing March 29

Jos reported that the P&ZC and its consultant received a number of valuable suggestions from the public that require them to once more review the draft Zoning Regulations. This includes changes to the Conservation Development Overlay District, the Village Incentive Housing densities and the soil-based zoning map. The public hearing was closed, and the P&Z plans to approve a final revision of the Zoning Regulations in the coming months.

6B. Fracking waste ordinance

Jos and Melissa asked the P&Z at the public hearing if they considered the proposed language regarding “Natural gas and/or petroleum waste” in the zoning regulations strong enough. The conclusion seemed to be that a town ordinance would be more protective, especially since the zoning regulations don’t apply to the road maintenance by town and state highway departments and their contractors.

6C. Low Impact Development

Connie sent the P&ZC a KCC letter regarding promoting LID in the Zoning Regulations. At the public hearing (6A) the P&Z consultant opined that LID is sufficiently emphasized in the revisions.

6D. NHCOG and regional planning
Tabled

6E. NCRI resource maps

Jos presented a paper set of resource maps produced by HVA, and received some suggestions for improvements. At the P&Z public hearing he asked the P&ZC to sponsor a new soil-based zoning map that can become part of the revised zoning regulations, as well as be added to our map set. P&Z expressed interest in doing this, in collaboration with KCC and HVA.

6F. Sustainable CT
Tabled

6G. HVA-Greenprint Regional corridors and connectors
Tabled

6H. Welcome to Kent brochure
Tabled

6I. KCS WRAP program

Connie received three plastic wrap recycling bins from Trex for use by Kent Center School. The challenge program starts in September.

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7. New Business

7A. April events

Road cleanup April 13-22

Liddy has a long list of volunteers, and has been handing out collection bags. She received commitments from CT-DOT to clean up along the state roads around the same time. The wrap-up event will take place Sunday April 22 at 9.30 at the Transfer Station.

CT Bird Atlas training April 14 at 10.30

Laurie Doss and Audubon will present this.

Children's Library program on April 18 at 10.30am

Laurie Doss will do a presentation about bird identification. Carol received a generous donation of bird-friendly spruce seedlings and shadblow shrubs from the Kent Greenhouse, which she will hand out to kids attending.

Arbor Day tree planting and poster contest April 27 at KCS

A tupelo tree will be planted behind Kent Center School by students under supervision of Jos and teacher Ane Starr. The cost of \$250 (including compost and mulch) will be split by the KCC and the Kent Garden Club. Melissa is involved in the recycling poster contest, which is sponsored by the KCC.

7B. Use of media

Carol mentioned that the Kent Community Facebook page hosted by Diane Lang, which has a lot of followers, posted our event announcements. Carol put our road cleanup announcement on the Chamber of Commerce website. Thought should be given to how to get more visitors to the KCC Facebook page.

7C. Winnie the Pooh event

Wendy suggested organizing a kid's event, inspired by a Winnie the Pooh story, whereby they would float little boats under a bridge.

7D. Veterans tree

Rick presented his idea of planting a tree donated by the KCC on Veterans Day in November to Andy Ociff of the Veterans Memorial Committee. They plan to meet Wednesday 4/18 to discuss location and species.

8. Correspondence

None

9. Adjourn.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9.02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jos Spelbos
April 29, 2018

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
KENT TOWN CLERK

2018 APR 30 A 9:14

BY [Signature] TOWN CLERK

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