

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
June 13, 2018

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
KENT TOWN CLERK
2018 JUL -5 A 10:36
BY *D. Bailey*
TOWN CLERK

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

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

- A. Draft Agenda
- B. Draft Minutes of Meeting of May 9, 2018
- C. Approved Minutes of the April 2018 meeting
- D. Draft Minutes of May 16 Special Meeting
- E. KCC Treasurer's report June 13, 2018
- F. May 16 letter from Wendy Murphy to neighboring towns regarding Cricket Valley and email response
- G. Email June 5 from Donna Sommers regarding busy agenda and tree plantings

1. Call to order.
A quorum being present chair Connie Manes called the meeting to order at 7.05 pm.
2. Accept/Amend Agenda.
The agenda was amended by adding item 7F and by a decision to concentrate on items 6A, 7A and 7B. Upon a motion by Melissa seconded by Wendy the amended agenda was unanimously accepted. Donna's email will be addressed in July's agenda.
3. Review, amend, approve meeting Minutes
Upon a motion by Melissa seconded by Wendy the Minutes of the May 9 regular meeting were unanimously approved.
Upon a motion by Wendy seconded by Rick the Minutes of the May 16 special meeting were unanimously approved.
4. Treasurer's report
Liddy's updated treasurer's report showed a new \$15.07 expense for an Earthday library book, \$509.75 for the War Memorial tree, and an additional \$500 payment for the GIS resource maps by HVA. After paying annual dues to CACIWC and the Rivers Alliance the leftover balance will be \$144.79.
5. Public Comment
Peter Jensen asked the commission to help him start a campaign to ban plastic straws in town, and raise awareness of the plastic pollution issue. Connie offered to meet with him to discuss what the commission

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.

has done so far on recycling, and what steps we can take next. Jacqueline Prialx suggested raising the issue in the online Selectmen's Newsletter.

Linda Palmer expressed her concerns about the expansion of the High Watch facility on Carter Road and recent forest clearing. Commissioners mentioned that the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Wetlands Commission and the state Health Department are already regulating the proposed expansion.

Attendees also expressed interest in agenda item 6A.

6. Old Business

6A. Cricket Valley Energy Center

Most commissioners attended the Board of Selectmen meeting on June 5 that addressed the letter sent by the KCC. Wendy presented our concerns and proposals. Representatives from neighboring towns spoke in support of our efforts. The BoS asked for a list of specific actions we want them to take.

We plan to request the BOS to inform Kent residents on the powerplant and our actions in their next newsletter; to inform officials in other towns and to ask those towns to recruit people for a regional task force; to seek support from regional politicians; to contribute money towards professional air monitoring, and to ask other towns for the same; and to appeal to the state for financial or professional aid for setting up monitoring stations.

Wendy and Carol will draft some text that can be added to the Selectmen's Newsletter. Wendy is in contact with some research institutes regarding air monitoring, and so is Mike Benjamin. Rick, Carol and Melissa have already spoken with some political candidates. Connie is trying to organize a July meeting with other conservation commissions. We will try to present our requests at the next BoS meeting.

6B.	<u>Fracking waste ordinance</u>	Tabled
6C.	<u>Planning and Zoning</u>	Tabled
6D.	<u>Low Impact Development</u>	Tabled
6E.	<u>NCRI resource maps</u>	Tabled
6F.	<u>HVA-Greenprint Regional corridors and connectors</u>	Tabled
6G.	<u>Sustainable CT</u>	Tabled
6H.	<u>Welcome to Kent brochure</u>	Tabled
6I.	<u>Trails brochure</u>	Tabled

6J. KLT picnic

The KCC was presented by most members at the land trust picnic, and 11 trail books were sold.

6K. Veteran's tree

After approving funding for a sugar maple dedicated to Kent's veterans at the May 16 special meeting, it is expected that the tree will be planted in June by the Kent Greenhouse.

7. New Business

7A. Trees

The redbud trees at the Welcome Center that died have graciously been replaced for free by Kent Greenhouse. The Stuart Farms affordable housing site can use some trees in the Fall.

In response to concerns by Donna Connie proposed that we clearly state what the goals and who the beneficiaries are of our tree planting program.

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.

- 7B. Public transparency
Connie reminded all that for public transparency purposes the town clerk needs to be copied any time we have an email discussion between multiple commission members, and that such discussion outside publicly posted meetings should be kept to a minimum. It is not needed when simply sharing information.
- 7C. How2Recycle.info
This website explains what can and can not be recycled.
- 7D. KLT Exploration Challenge
See KLT website.
- 7E. Council on Environmental Quality Annual Report
The new CEQ report on environmental conditions in Connecticut can be found on www.ct.gov/ceq.
- 7F. Student representative
Connie floated the idea of reaching out to a Kent student who wrote a great letter to the editor regarding plastic pollution, as a possible student rep to the commission.
8. Correspondence None
9. Adjourn.
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9.00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jos Spelbos
July 4, 2018

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.