

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
September 12, 2018

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KENT TOWN CLERK

2018 OCT -9 A 9:55

BY

TOWN CLERK

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

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

- A. Draft Agenda
- B. Draft Minutes of Meeting of July 11, 2018
- C. Approved Minutes of the June 2018 meeting
- D. Treasurer's report for September
- E. August 15 memo from HRRRA regarding glass recycling, forwarded by Connie
- F. Statement on single-use plastics by Peter Jensen

1. Call to order.

A quorum being present chair Connie Manes called the meeting to order at 7.04 pm.

2. Accept/Amend Agenda.

After adding items 7D and 7E, the amended agenda was unanimously accepted after a motion by Wendy, seconded by Donna.

3. Review, amend, approve meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by Wendy, seconded by Donna, the Minutes of the July 11 regular meeting were unanimously approved. There was no meeting in August.

4. Treasurer's report

Liddy had distributed a treasurer's report by email. It showed no expenses in the past two months.

5. Public Comment

Peter Jensen inquired about the KCC budget, and asked to participate in the discussion about recycling.

6. Old Business

6A. Cricket Valley Energy Center

Carol updated the commission on the July 18 meeting of regional conservation commissions and the subsequent formation of an independent task force now named Western CT Clean Air Action. It will be chaired by Mike Benjamin, and will focus on establishing air quality monitoring in the region. There is a new Facebook page, and all people on the mailing list are invited to join in Google Groups and to attend a public meeting on September 26, 7pm at Kent Town Hall with DEEP commissioner Rob Klee and DEEP Air Quality officials.

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| 6B. | <u>Fracking waste ordinance</u> | Tabled |
| 6C. | <u>Tree planting</u> | Tabled |
| 6D. | <u>NCRI resource maps</u> | Tabled |
| 6E. | <u>HVA-Greenprint Regional corridors and connectors</u> | Tabled |
- 6F. Sustainable CT
 Jos reported on a NHCOC meeting about this program, and noted that several neighboring towns have joined the program, and are seeing active participation by their selectmen. In Kent it hasn't caught on yet, since it involves a lot of data gathering and active follow-up, while the benefits are not clear yet.
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| 6G. | <u>Welcome to Kent brochure</u> | Tabled |
| 6H. | <u>Trails brochure</u> | Tabled |
7. New Business
- 7A. Recycling initiatives
1. The Housatonic Resource Recovery Authority is planning to collect glass separate from other recyclables starting October, because of contamination problems and rising costs. Connie heard from the first selectman that Kent and other towns are not ready yet, and implementation may be postponed. The first selectman would like us to promote collection of hazardous wastes by Kent residents at the yearly regional drop-off events.
 2. Resident Peter Jensen wrote a statement summarizing the extent of single-use plastic production and pollution, and recommending a local ordinance banning plastic drinking straws as a first step in encouraging conservation and recycling. He showed samples of paper and compostable straws. While sharing his concerns, the commission felt that voluntary change is preferable. It was decided that Connie and Peter will attend a meeting of the Kent Chamber of Commerce early October to get buy-in from local merchants, and that we can raise more awareness at the Gilmore Girls event in mid-October.
 3. Connie will place the three plastic wrap collection boxes that she has received at Kent Center School. The school can take part in a Trex-sponsored contest to collect the most plastic bags and wraps (clean ones). She will then take full bags to participating grocery stores. The town's transfer station apparently dumps the plastic bags they collect in the regular garbage because too many of them are dirty.
 4. Carol relayed a request by the Sharon Energy and Environment Commission to join a regionwide initiative to ban plastic bags. Connie preferred to first educate people before considering a ban. Some discussion took place how to minimize plastic bag use at the Chinese restaurant.
 5. Apparently this year there was no recycling at the Kent Presents event. We will ask the organizers to place recycling bins next time, and will ask the Chamber of Commerce to publish on their website that we have recycling bins available for free.
- 7B. Public Land ballot
 Connie explained that at this year's elections on November 6 Connecticut will have an important ballot question concerning the protection of public lands from poorly disclosed giveaways by the state legislature, by amending the state constitution. We will publicize it on the KCC Facebook page.
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| 7C. | <u>New litter cleanup signs</u> | Tabled |
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7D. Use of road salt

According to a newspaper article Matt Starr complained about excessive road salt use and well contamination to the Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission. We didn't receive such complaint. It was suggested to contact Rick Osborne about the use of road salt by the town, and to place the issue on our next agenda.

7E. Kenico Road

According to the same newspaper article Matt Starr also complained about damage to wetlands and vernal pools due to the town's reconstruction work on Kenico Road. The KCC has not been made aware of this, but jurisdiction falls to the Inland Wetlands Commission.

8. Correspondence

None

9. Adjourn.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9.25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jos Spelbos
October 6, 2018

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BY *D. Brady*
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