

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

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
January 24, 2018

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
KENT TOWN CLERK

2018 FEB -5 A 8:58

BY *Liddy Baker*  
TOWN CLERK

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

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

- A. Draft Agenda
- B. Draft Minutes of Special Meeting of December 13, 2017
- C. Approved Minutes of the October 2017 meeting
- D. Sample fracking waste ordinances
- E. Links to LID manuals and information
- F. A link to sustainablect.org

1. Call to order.

A quorum being present chair Connie Manes called the meeting to order at 7.10 pm.

2. Accept/Amend Agenda.

After adding items 6J and 7B, C and D the amended agenda was unanimously accepted upon a motion by Rick seconded by Melissa.

3. Review, amend, approve Minutes of Special Meeting of December 13, 2017.

Upon a motion by Rick seconded by Connie the Minutes as drafted were unanimously approved.

4. Treasurer's report and Budget planning

Liddy presented a balance sheet showing no expenses in the last month from the regular budget. She did pay \$180 from the Kuga Fund to Kent Greenhouse for the planting of 3 trees in the village, including near the firehouse. The Greenhouse received payments also from individual property owners who had trees planted. We will face the bulk of our yearly expenses in the spring. A bill from HVA for GIS mapping is expected soon.

After some discussion about the 2018/19 budget and a motion by Connie, seconded by Melissa, the commission unanimously decided to ask Liddy to submit the same budget request as last year.

The annual event and activity planning will be discussed at the February meeting.

Connie will check when an annual report to the town is due.

5. Public Comment

None

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6. Old Business

6A. Update on street tree planting

All the trees are planted, and all planting costs are paid for. Wendy was thanked for coordinating this. Liddy announced an Informal Club presentation on February 14 at 2pm by the Streetscape Committee regarding proposed improvements to Main Street.

6B. KCS WRAP program

Connie didn't receive the promised plastic bag collection bins for the school yet, but will go after it.

6C. P&Z Zoning regulations

The Planning and Zoning Commission is wrapping up the revisions to the regulations and intends to hold a public hearing in March. We hope to see the final draft on the town website soon.

6D. NHCOG Regional Plan of Conservation and Development

See under 6H.

6E. Kent Welcome Center

no news

6F. Fracking waste ordinance

The commission discussed a proposal by Melissa to request the town to pass an ordinance prohibiting the storage, transfer, treatment and disposal of fracking waste, as a way of putting pressure on the state to pass a statewide ban, and to add enforcement powers. P&Z address the issue in a limited way in the revised zoning regulations, but a town ordinance like the ones passed in other Connecticut towns may be more effective. We will reach out to P&Z first, and Wendy will talk to people who were instrumental in the passage of such ordinances in Washington and New Milford.

6G. Sustainable Connecticut

Connie attended a presentation about the sustainableCT program which follows out of earlier town energy task force efforts and state climate resiliency programs (CIRCA). Towns are encouraged to get state certification by inventorying the progress they have made towards environmental, social and economical resiliency and sustainability, establishing a baseline, and by taking additional steps. She and Katherine Freygang are hosting a presentation in Goshen on February 15 at 10am, to get area towns to work on this together. In the meantime we can familiarize ourselves with the sustainablect.org criteria and processes. Melissa suggested attracting attendance by showing a conservation themed movie. Rick wants a stronger focus on promoting solar power.

6H. HVA-Greenprint Regional corridors and connectors

In her role as Greenprint manager Connie is reaching out to area town leaders and organizations to familiarize them with and build support for HVA-Greenprint's and the NHCOG's visions for conservation and development, as represented in their plans and maps. She will have the help of two Yale interns.

6 I. River Road

no news

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- 6 J. NCRI maps  
Jos circulated a number of draft GIS maps updated by HVA for inclusion in the revised edition of The Natural and Cultural Riches of Kent. He will send suggestions for improvements to the HVA GIS manager.
7. New Business
- 7A. Low Impact Development  
Commissioners felt that an LID manual as developed by civil engineer Steven Trinkaus for some other Connecticut towns, including recently Morris, could serve as a guide to developers, the P&Z, and the town engineer when developing and reviewing land use proposals. The commission asked Jos to draft a letter to P&Z recommending including references to those manuals and LID principles into the new zoning regulations.
- 7B. Election of officers  
Upon a motion by Wendy, seconded by Melissa, the commission unanimously voted to reappoint the same officers as last year: Connie Manes as chair, Carol Franken as vice-chair, Liddy Baker as treasurer, Wendy Murphy as secretary, while Jos Spelbos will take the Minutes.
- 7E. Cricket Valley power plant  
There will be a meeting in Sherman about the impact of the Dover, NY plant on neighboring towns in Connecticut, and Katherine Freygang would like to organize opposition in Kent too.
8. Correspondence  
Letter from Katherine Freygang; see 7E.
9. Adjourn.  
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9.20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jos Spelbos  
February 4, 2018

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