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

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
March 20, 2019

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

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

- A. Draft Agenda by Carol
- B. Draft Minutes of Meeting of February 13, 2019
- C. Approved Minutes of the January meeting
- D. Link to fastcompany.com
- E. Links to environmental bills under consideration by the state legislature

1. Call to order.

Vice-chairperson Carol Franken called the meeting to order at 6.37 pm.

2. Review, amend, approve meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by Wendy, seconded by Carol, the draft Minutes of the February 13 regular meeting were unanimously approved without changes.

3. Treasurer's report

An updated report was circulated, showing no new expenses in the previous month. Jos has a tree pruning bill for \$100.

Lynn reported that the KCC budget request for 2019/20 has been approved by the Board of Selectmen.

4. Old Business

4A. Recycling initiatives

4A1. Straws and single-use plastics

Peter Jensen has completed his inventory of the use of single-use plastics by town businesses. Maddy Stevens has been in contact with the local schools and will gather more data from them. Most merchants and schools are aware of the problems these plastics pose to the environment and are trying to use more alternative materials. Many distributors are moving toward compostable products. Plastic utensils are apparently the hardest to replace. Some businesses did not show interest in reducing their plastic usage. Peter also circulated a one page statement about the scale of the problem and efforts to address it.

Carol thanked both residents for their work, and commissioners proposed that Peter presents the survey results to the Chamber of Commerce and participating merchants. Melissa and Maddy will draft a press

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release for the regional newspapers, and Lynn Worthington will write an article for the Waterbury Republican.

4A2. WRAP – Trex Recycling Challenge at KCS

It was noted that Kent's private schools can use the WRAP collection boxes that we have left over.

4A3. Glass separation

A few towns in the HRRA region are participating in a pilot program to test the feasibility.

4A4. Fast Company program

Wendy had sent a weblink to the fastcompany.com website which shows many alternatives to plastic products.

4A5. Markets for recyclables

Some discussion took place about the effects of the ban by China on the import of most recycled materials since early 2018. This has crashed the market for many recyclables in the US, and raised the cost of recycling drastically. We would like to find out how Kent and other HRRA towns are coping with this.

4A6. CT legislative bills update

The state legislature is considering a number of bills aimed at reducing or eliminating certain single-use plastics state-wide. State-wide laws are seen by the commission as far preferable to local restrictions.

4B. Use of road salt in Kent

The commission would like to join forces with the Inland Wetlands Commission to find ways to reduce the use of road salt especially in sensitive areas.

4C. Review April events

Since South Kent School starts their trash pickup after April 20 the date for the transfer station gathering at the end of the road cleanup will be changed to April 27. Carol and Melissa will prepare and hang the flyers announcing the cleanup.

Carol circulated more children's books and presented the flyer for the Library program on clean air, scheduled for April 17. It was suggested to add stickers to the flyers saying that this program is meant for young children.

For the Arbor Day tree planting at KCS on April 26 Jos and teacher Ane Starr settled on a paper birch at the NW corner of the school building. Jos will order one at Kent Greenhouse.

4D. WCCAA update

Wendy and Carol noted that the contact list of the group now contains 150 people, and that more towns are joining the air monitoring effort. There was a story about WCCAA recently in the Sierra Club newsletter, and there is a bill under consideration in the state legislature calling for a better warning system for out of state developments impacting the state.

4E,F. NCRI and Kent Trails Guide

Wendy will work on the resource inventory update after she finishes the revision of the Trails Guide.

Jos is updating the Open Space Index, and is waiting for the final version of the soil-based zoning map.

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- 4G. Fracking waste ordinance  
Melissa wants to see first if the state is going to pass legislation restricting the use and transport of fracking waste this year.
- 5. New Business
  - 5A. Review wording of KCC Mission Statement  
Carol would like to rephrase our mission statement and post it on our website.
- 6. Correspondence  
None
- 7. Adjourn.  
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8.03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jos Spelbos  
April 5, 2019

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