

RECEIVED

By Darlene Brady at 10:22 am, May 06, 2024



Kent Conservation Commission
Wednesday May 8, 2024 @7:00pm
Kent Town Hall with hybrid option

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83711605551?pwd=YkZWcERzaVh0a0Q2d2pLVmNjK1hrZz09>

Meeting ID: 837 1160 5551 Passcode: 075466

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Accept/Amend Agenda
3. Accept/Amend Minutes Regular Mtg April 10, 2024
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Public Comment

6. Old Business:

Discussion items

A. Review Spring Events:

- i. Town Clean Up
- ii. KCS Arbor Day program
- iii. Children's Library program "Let's Compost"

B. Materials Management in Kent / SAYT

C. Street Trees - KCC Street Tree Program guidelines

Updates (only as needed):

- D. Green Energy Task Force
- E. Housatonic Herbicide Working Group
- F. POCD

7. New Business:

- A. Pollinator Pathway Resolution and No Mow May
- B. Participation in KLT Memorial Day picnic
- C. State Legislative Session (see list of bills following page)
- D. Change in KCC Chairperson position

8. Correspondence

9. Adjourn

2024 Legislative Session – Ongoing Environment Committee

HB 5004 Big Climate Bill – passed in the House – on to the Senate!

HB 5217 Rodenticides – out of committee and referred by House to Committee on Appropriations – no further movement

HB 5218 Riparian Buffers – funding for easements, mandatory setbacks – out of committee and referred by House to Committee on Appropriations – no further movement

HB 5219 Railroad spraying –Passed in the House – on to the Senate!

HB 5225 Invasive Plants Council (porcelainberry, mugwort, quackgrass, Japanese angelica, Japanese and Chinese wisteria, Callery Pear) – passed in House, waiting to be calendared in Senate

HB 5226 EPR for Consumer Batteries – passed in the House, on to the Senate

HB 5228 Purchase of Land at Ag Value – Waiting to be calendared by House

SB 11 An Act Concerning Connecticut Resiliency Planning and Providing Municipal Options for Climate Resilience – to implement the Governor’s budget recommendations – waiting to be calendared in Senate

SB 191 Food scrap Diversion – waiting to be calendared in Senate

SB 192 Dam Safety – passed Senate, waiting to be calendared in House

SB 198 Local Representation on Siting Council – waiting to be calendared in Senate

SB 292 PFAs disclosure – passed Senate, waiting to be calendared in House

SB 294 Municipal Park Lands – passed Senate, on to the House

Died:

HB 5220 EPR for Solar Panels

SB 190 Neonicotinoids

SB 291 Balloons Biodegradable

Town of Kent, Connecticut Pollinator Pathway Resolution

WHEREAS *pollinators are in decline due to destruction and fragmentation of habitat from development, a lack of native plants due to an increase of invasive species, inappropriate and excessive use of pesticides, and a lawn culture that promotes turf grass monoculture which offers no benefits to pollinators and other wildlife;*

WHEREAS, *pollinator species such as bees, birds, butterflies and other pollinating insects are vital to maintaining healthy and diverse ecosystems;*

WHEREAS, *pollination is responsible for most of the food we eat;*

WHEREAS, *five native bee species are threatened, endangered or of special concern in Connecticut and a downward trend is seen in species diversity of bees, butterflies, birds, and many other animals;*

WHEREAS, *the Town of Kent is cognizant of the need for safe and healthy landscapes for its residents and habitat for important pollinators;*

WHEREAS, *recent scientific research supports the benefits of restoring and reconnecting isolated patches of habitat;*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THE TOWN OF Kent, CONNECTICUT does hereby recognize and support the tenets of the Pollinator Pathway Northeast which are to encourage all residents and the municipality to:

- Refrain from broadcast spraying of herbicides as a vegetation-control measure in all municipal management (e.g., guardrails, roadsides, culverts, Town-owned lands). If herbicides are indicated as part of a treatment plan for invasive plants, use manual application limited to the minimum necessary to implement the treatment plan.
- Refrain from pesticide spraying of building foundations and the use of poisoned bait traps in Town-managed buildings except as required for public safety and limited to the

minimum necessary to address the safety issue (e.g., wasp nest directly above frequently-used doorway).

- New plantings on municipal lands should include at least 70% native plants chosen to support pollinators and birds and requiring minimal maintenance. Maintenance activities that disturb habitat including ground disturbance, deadheading, and leaf removal should be avoided. (see www.pollinator-pathway.org for helpful lists).
- Celebrate and implement No Mow May by delaying mowing of municipally-managed lawn areas until June 1 or later. Support this initiative with a sign explaining to residents why the town is participating in this worthy initiative. #NoMowMay
- Follow best practices for garden clean up: clean up in the spring, allow plant heads to remain through winter to provide food for wildlife, keep plant stalks standing and leave snags of dead wood for native bees to nest, ‘#leavetheleaves’ on flower beds through fall and winter to provide habitat, soil nourishment and protection for overwintering pollinators;
- Set a goal of decreasing the lawn area around Town-owned buildings by 10% this year, and replanting former lawn areas with native trees, shrubs and perennial non-woody plants. Protect and enrich soil by using organic yard-care practices and avoiding application of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and treated mulch, and leave some areas of bare ground for ground-nesting bees;
- Create signage and communications to explain the Town’s strategy with respect to native plants and pollinators.