

KENT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Kent Town Hall
41 Kent Green Boulevard
Kent, Connecticut 06757

REGULAR MEETING
February 11, 2015 – 7:00 PM

MINUTES

Present: Commissioners Liddy Baker, Melissa Cherniske, Carol Franken, Rick Levy, Connie Manes, Wendy Murphy, Donna Sommers; Advisor Jos Spelbos. Guest Lynn Worthington. Absent: Laurie Doss.

1. Call to order.
There being a quorum present, Chairperson Connie Manes called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.
2. Accept/Amend Agenda.
The agenda was amended to add under item 12. New Business: B. KCS Bird Habitat. Carol Franken made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Wendy Murphy seconded the motion. The vote transpired as follows: Baker, Yes, Cherniske, Yes, Franken, Yes, Levy, Yes, Manes, Yes, Murphy, Yes, Sommers, Yes.
3. Review, amend, approve minutes of Regular Meeting January 14, 2015.
Minor amendments were made to the minutes. Franken made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Rick Levy seconded the motion. The vote transpired as follows: Baker, Yes, Cherniske, Yes, Franken, Yes, Levy, Yes, Manes, Yes, Murphy, Yes, Sommers, Yes.
4. Treasurer's Report.
Treasurer Liddy Baker provided report and submitted a written report; there has been no activity in the past month. There is \$1,390.00 remaining within the FY2014-2015 budget.

A. Preparation of Annual Budget. Baker reported that she and Manes presented a draft FY2015-2016 budget to the Board of Selectmen earlier today. The draft presented reflected an increase of \$1,000.00 over the current year budget, and we anticipate that we may be asked to reduce some areas. The draft will now go on to the Town Treasurer who will get back to us with comments.
5. Annual Calendar
The Commissioners discussed the draft Annual Calendar as a planning tool; some additions were made.
6. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Campaign.
 - A. Street containers. The Commissioners discussed the Coca-Cola Keep America Beautiful grant, and whether the bins available would be suitable for the permanent containers we hope to place on the village streets. The Commissioners agreed that the KAB bins are not the desired aesthetic, however we will apply for four of our own wire event bins like the ones we have borrowed from the Town of New Milford. Manes will complete this application, due February 28th. We will seek other sources of funding for permanent street containers. Meanwhile, we will also identify a design that we like and see if a local contractor can make it for us. Jos Spelbos will obtain the specifications and a budget. Murphy will approach Roberta Willis.
 - B. Transfer Station interventions – Follow (March pop up event?). Following discussion, the Commissioners decided not to conduct a follow up event at the Transfer Station in March, but to consider one on a Sunday in July.

C. Green Award. The Commissioners discussed the award materials distributed prior to the meeting. Many thanks to Melissa Cherniske for submitting the nomination focusing on the Commission's Recycling Campaign. The presentation of the award will be on March 12th at the Aldrich Museum in Ridgefield, CT. We have two tickets and additional tickets may be purchased at \$50 each. Levy will attend. Murphy offered to go along with him if his wife Leslie does not wish to accompany him.

D. HRRR Poster Contest. Cherniske will coordinate with Ane Starr at Kent Center School to obtain the winning posters prior to the Arbor Day ceremony (Friday April 24th) and enlarge them at Staples. This way we will be ready to display them the next day during our Town Clean Up finale celebration at the Transfer Station (Saturday April 25th).

7. Macro Madness II.

A. Work still needed: Leaf Packs. We still need to pull the Leaf Packs from the stream at the Tobin Preserve, but this will need to wait until the snow melts. Data entry is still needed for leaf packs.

8. Planning & Zoning Commission Regulations Review.

There will be a public meeting to discuss the draft regulations next Thursday February 19th at 7 pm. Spelbos attended a meeting of the Planning & Zoning Commission at the end of January. Bart Clark was present to discuss the Town of Washington's experience using a hybrid soil-density zoning system.

9. Open Space Plan.

The Commissioners discussed continued progress on the Open Space Plan draft.

10. Right To Farm Ordinance.

The Commissioners discussed the draft Right To Farm Ordinance distributed prior to the meeting, and made edits. A new draft will be distributed and discussion continued at the next meeting.

11. Old Business.

A. Trail Brochure/Guide. Murphy reported that work on the Brochure continues.

B. Town of Kent Annual Report. Manes reported that she will make needed additions to the Annual Report so that it is correct in the Town Records.

C. Hatch Pond Watershed Implementation Plan Meeting 2/27. This meeting will feature a speaker on Low Impact Development.

12. New Business.

A. Roxbury Conservation Commission Well Testing Program. The Commissioners discussed the information Murphy was able to discover from the Roxbury Conservation Commission. This might be a worthwhile project to conduct in coordination with water conservation education, or a "National Water Day". We are unclear about the output necessary – how many trips to the lab would it involve? Murphy will find out a little more and we will think about it for 2016.

B. KCS Bird Habitat. Cherniske attended a meeting at the Kent Center School. A school committee, including the 5th-6th grades science teacher, is creating a Bird Habitat and exploring what this will entail. They are also exploring partners and funding sources. They want the school's students to be able to birdwatch from their classrooms. Cherniske believes one thing that would be helpful is to have her husband Darrell and Spelbos walk the school grounds with the committee to see what plantings exist and would enhance habitat.

13. Correspondence

Norfolk Land Trust/Open Space Institute event on Climate Resiliency RESCHEDULED March 7;

<http://www.norfolklandtrust.org/>

CAWS Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference 3/19

14. Adjourn. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Manes

Connie Manes

April 5, 2015

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KENT TOWN CLERK

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BY *Theresa S. Allen*
TOWN CLERK