

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

REGULAR MEETING
April 8, 2015 – 7:00 PM

MINUTES

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
KENT TOWN CLERK
2015 MAY 13 A 10:08
BY *Donna Sommers*
TOWN CLERK

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

1. Call to order.
There being a quorum present, Chairperson Connie Manes called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.
2. Accept/Amend Agenda.
Carol Franken made a motion to accept the agenda. Liddy Baker seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.
3. Review, amend, approve minutes of Regular Meeting March 11, 2015.
Baker made a motion to approve the minutes. Franken seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.
4. Treasurer's Report.
Treasurer Liddy Baker provided an oral report and submitted a written report; there has been one expense submitted since the last meeting; the budget balance is \$1,345.25 remaining for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. Jos Spelbos submitted a receipt for his attendance at the recent Land Use Conference. Spelbos shared feedback about the conference. In connection therewith he received a textbook containing information relevant to Planning and Zoning issues.

Baker reported that the Commission's budget request is still working its way through the Town's budgeting process and is anticipated to be adopted on during public meeting in May. There have been no objections to the Commission's request. However, the Board of Selectman reportedly may seek to trim the overall budget by \$200,000.

Finally, Baker reported that Town Treasurer Barbara Herbst advised that the Commission should "escrow" the funds received from Winters Brothers in connection with our planned recycling bins, by depositing the check into the Kuga fund.
5. Spring Events Planning
 - A. Arbor Day/ KCS Bird Habitat. Spelbos reported that Kent Center School teachers Al Coffill and Susan Makarewich have requested a shadblow for this year's Arbor Day Tree. The tree will be planted in front of the school library and be visible to people as they enter the school grounds. The tree replaces two trees that formerly stood in this place but were removed. Spelbos reported that expenses would be \$190 for

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the tree plus an additional \$20 for mulch and compost. The Kent Garden Club will share in the expense, which should leave funds remaining in the budget for this activity.

The Commission discussed using the excess funds to purchase shrubs for the school's new bird habitat project. While there was strong support for the Commission's support of the project, the Commissioners ultimately decided that many details had yet to be worked out. Following a motion by Murphy and seconded by Cherniske to apply the excess funds to the purchase of shrubs, which motion passed unanimously, Murphy made a second motion to rescind the vote and rephrase the motion to direct that excess funds be deposited in the Kuga Fund, with the possibility that such funds would be used to purchase shrubs for the school's Bird Habitat upon submission to the Commission of a plan endorsed by the school Building Committee. Cherniske seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Spelbos reported that he had assessed the need for maintenance on trees planted at the school during previous Arbor Day observances. A small amount of maintenance work is indicated. Upon a motion by Murphy seconded by Cherniske, the Commission directed Spelbos to prepare a proposal for the Commission's consideration, in accordance with its procedures for considering and documenting financial transactions with interested parties.

This year's Arbor Day celebration will be held Friday, April 24th at 2 pm. Spelbos will dig the hole for planting the day before the ceremony.

Finally, Spelbos reported that the trees lining Elizabeth Street look sparse. He asked whether the Commission might reengage in a former effort to plant more trees along this street. Murphy volunteered to look back at past minutes to find more information about what had been done and by whom.

B. Kent Memorial Library Earth Day Children's Event. Franken posted flyers advertising the event. She asked commissioners to please attend Wednesday, April 15th at 1:00 pm.

C. Town Clean Up. Baker reported that she will distribute green and black collection bags within the week. Kent's Cub, Boy and Girl Scouts will all participate in this year's cleanup, taking on various roads in the Village Center. The Congregational Church will join this year. Annie Bananies and John Casey will support the effort by providing refreshments to the scouts after their cleanup times. The South Kent School will clean all of South Kent Road, Bulls Bridge Road to Camp Flats Road, Geer Mountain Road up to Ore Hill Road, River Road in Gaylordsville, all of Spooner Hill Road, and Schaghticoke Road up to the Indian reservation. The Commission will once again provide cake to the South Kent School students.

Manes sent a press release describing the event. She will hang flyers in town and Franken will place the sandwich board on the lawn outside the pharmacy. The Commission will host a celebration at the close of the Cleanup on Sunday, April 25th at the Transfer Station.

6. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Campaign.

A. Street containers. Rick Levy reported that we are still waiting for a response to an outstanding grant application.

B. Earlier in the week, Levy attended the April meeting of the Chamber of Commerce to discuss the Commission's recycling initiative. Many town merchants have paid to have their recycling carted away; recently the town offered merchants the opportunity to bring recycling to the Transfer Station. Levy continues to work on setting up a visit for the Commission at the Winters Brothers recycling plant, hopefully within the month of May.

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C. EPA Make a Difference Campaign: <http://www.epa.gov/osw/education/mad.htm>. The Commission discussed its interest in working with the local schools to raise awareness of strategies to reduce, reuse and recycle. Commissioners discussed the potential for collaborative sponsorship of a “waste free lunch day” within Kent Center School.

B. Other.

- i) The Commission will look for a date during the April school break, or in May, to visit the facility.
- ii) We will host a table at the Kent Land Trust Community Conservation Picnic this Memorial Day focused on recycling.
- iii) Manes applied for a “Keep America Beautiful” grant to fund 4 of Kent’s own Temporary Event Recycling containers.
- iv) The Commission discussed additional ideas to encourage recycling in Kent. The link to the EPA’s “Make a Difference” campaign for school age children has interesting ideas about how to incorporate waste reduction education into the school day.

7. Macro Madness II. Tabled.

8. Planning & Zoning Commission Regulations Review. Tabled.

9. Open Space Plan. Tabled.

10. Right To Farm Ordinance.

First Selectman Bruce Adams received comments on the draft Right To Farm Ordinance from Town Attorney Randi DiBella; Selectman Adams sent the comments to the Land Use Administrator and asked that the matter be put on the upcoming Planning & Zoning Committee agenda. The Commission discussed DiBella’s comments and options for response. The Commission discussed the Town of Cornwall’s experience with the broad language “generally accepted farming practices” and suggested outreach to Perley Grimes to find out more about how the drafters made this decision. Upon a motion by Levy seconded by Cherniske, the Commission asked Manes to attend the P&Z meeting and to write a memorandum addressing DiBella’s comments.

11. Old Business.

- A. Trail Brochure/Guide. Tabled.
- B. Town of Kent Annual Report. Tabled.
- C. Hatch Pond Watershed Implementation Committee. No report.
- D. Roxbury Conservation Commission Well Testing Program. Tabled.
- E. Fracking Waste Ban Ordinance. The Town of Washington recently adopted an ordinance banning production, storage, or transport of fracking waste within the town. The Commissioners discussed whether Kent’s draft zoning regulations, which consider production and transport of natural gas and petroleum products, will cover fracking waste, its storage and/or use as a de-icing agent for roads. Reportedly, the P&Z rejected separate de-icing language, believing this was covered in the current draft.

12. New Business.

- A. State Budget. The Commission discussed the broad cuts proposed for environmental programs and services in the Governor’s budget.

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- B. Big Night 2015. The Commissioners discussed recent visits to vernal pools and their observations.
- C. DEEP Quality Control Study. Manes read a response from Meghan Lally with regard to DEEPs proposal that volunteer monitors sample some of the same stream locations routinely monitored by DEEP staff, and compare data. Manes will forward Lally's response and map and the Commissioners will discuss further at the May meeting.

13. Correspondence. None.

14. Adjourn. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Manes
May 11, 2015

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

REGULAR MEETING
March 11, 2015 – 7:00 PM

MINUTES

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
KENT TOWN CLERK

2015 MAY 13 A 10:08

BY *Dawn Snady R*
TOWN CLERK

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

1. Call to order.
There being a quorum present, Chairperson Connie Manes called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.
2. Accept/Amend Agenda.
Carol Franken made a motion to accept the agenda. Wendy Murphy seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.
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. Melissa Cherniske seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.
4. Treasurer's Report.
Treasurer Liddy Baker provided an oral report and submitted a written report; there has been no activity in the past month. The balance within the Kuga Fund is \$7,000, \$300 of which has been designated by the Commission to care for trees planted at Kent Center School in celebration of Arbor Day. Baker has not heard from the Town with regard to the Commission's budget request for FY2015-2016
5. Spring Events Planning
 - A. Arbor Day. The Commission discussed this year's Arbor Day contribution of a tree. Jos Spelbos suggested working with the Bird Habitat group at the school to select a tree that would work with this initiative. Cherniske will connect Spelbos and Mr. Szwed. Spelbos will coordinate with Mr. Coffil and the Arbor Day planning committee. Spelbos will also assess the trees planted during previous years to determine if pruning is necessary.

Cherniske has printed 2 copies of the winning HRRR poster for the Arbor Day celebration and later display at the Transfer Station during the Town Clean Up celebration, the Kent Land Trust Community Conservation Picnic, and at the Town Hall.
 - B. Kent Memorial Library Earth Day Children's Event. Franken reported that Emily Sanborn of South Kent School will lead a children's program on Wednesday, April 15th at 1:00 pm. The program will focus on animals, and compare local wildlife to domestic pets. Franken has arranged for the Library to purchase a children's book on the wood thrush in conjunction with the program.
 - C. Town Clean Up. Baker reported that she ordered the green bags for recyclables collection. She has the list of participants from last year and will contact previous captains and volunteers to confirm their participation. Baker will analyze which roads in Town were not covered last year; Cherniske and Donna Sommers will help recruit additional volunteers to cover these roads. Cherniske reported that the Boy and

Cub Scouts will clean up in the Village Center on Friday, April 24th and John Casey has offered once again to host a party for them afterwards. Manes will write a press release and develop flyers for posting within the first week of April.

Manes will post our April Earth Day events on the Chamber of Commerce calendar.

6. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Campaign.

A. Street containers. Rick Levy reported on the effort to obtain permanent recycling containers for Kent's Main Street. Cherniske identified containers that may fit the Town's streetscape aesthetic, priced at about \$850 per container. Levy was successful in obtaining a grant of \$200 from Winters Brothers Waste Systems, Inc. to be used for the recycling bins. Levy and Cherniske made application on March 1st to the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation Green Pastures fund for an additional \$3000 and expect a decision prior to the Commission's April meeting. They have identified 2 or 3 additional grant leads. Franken and Murphy will continue to assist Levy and Cherniske in obtaining grants.

B. Other.

- i) The Commission will look for a date during the April school break, or in May, to visit the facility.
- ii) We will host a table at the Kent Land Trust Community Conservation Picnic this Memorial Day focused on recycling.
- iii) Manes applied for a "Keep America Beautiful" grant to fund 4 of Kent's own Temporary Event Recycling containers.
- iv) The Commission discussed additional ideas to encourage recycling in Kent. The link to the EPA's "Make a Difference" campaign for school age children has interesting ideas about how to incorporate waste reduction education into the school day.

7. Macro Madness II.

Manes reported that Meghan Lally of Connecticut's Department of Energy & Environmental Protection has emailed the results of our macroinvertebrate surveys, preliminary to the publication of the DEEP RBV Annual Report. Lally has also emailed suggesting that the Commission participate in a mini-study with the DEEP by surveying sites that the DEEP is also scheduled to sample and comparing data. The DEEP has selected the confluence of Bog Hollow and Macedonia Brooks in Kent among other sites. Following discussion, the Commission determined not to participate in the mini-study, but rather to focus on streams identified within Kent as needing follow up assessment or which have never been assessed for baseline.

8. Planning & Zoning Commission Regulations Review.

A Town Meeting was held February 19th to solicit comments on the latest version of the draft regulations. Spelbos made comments about the draft's approach to conservation developments, among other subjects.

9. Open Space Plan.

Tabled.

10. Right To Farm Ordinance.

The Commissioners discussed the draft Right To Farm Ordinance distributed prior to the meeting, and made edits. A portion of the discussion focused on whether to narrow language within the ordinance referring to "generally accepted farming practices" to "generally accepted farming practices *in Connecticut*" (emphasis added). Spelbos made a motion to add the narrowing language. Levy seconded the motion and the vote transpired as follows: Baker, No, Cherniske, No, Franken, No, Levy, Yes, Manes, No, Murphy, No, Sommers, No. Baker made a motion to accept all other changes and move the draft forward in the Town's processes for adoption. Manes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Manes will

make the changes, circulate the final draft to the Commissioners, and determine the process for Town adoption.

11. Old Business.

- A. Trail Brochure/Guide. Murphy reported that John Baker has prepared at least a draft map for every trail in Kent, and that she has text drafted for each trail.
- B. Town of Kent Annual Report. Tabled.
- C. Hatch Pond Watershed Implementation Plan Meeting 2/27. Franken and Spelbos attended the latest meeting of the Implementation Committee. Marty Connor, Torrington's City Planner, presented on Low Impact Development practices which have been used in Torrington, including rain gardens and pervious pavement in commercial parking lots. Manes will email Maryann Haverstock to inquire whether the presentation by Fuss & O'Neill on the status of the Pond, held this past November, can be repeated at the Town Hall on a weekend this June, so that more people from the community may participate.
- D. Roxbury Conservation Commission Well Testing Program. Tabled.
- E. Kent Center School Bird Habitat. Discussed within Arbor Day planning conversation.

12. New Business.

- A. State Budget. The Commission discussed the broad cuts proposed for environmental programs and services in the Governor's budget. There may be opportunities to advocate for the restoration of funding; the Commission will investigate further.
- B. Town of Washington Ordinance banning Fracking Waste. The Commissioners discussed a new ordinance adopted by the Town of Washington banning the storage and/or use of fracking waste within the Town. Cherniske believes fracking waste is addressed or covered within the new draft P&Z regulations. Manes will obtain a copy of the Washington ordinance. The Commission will determine whether additional regulation to the draft regulations may be appropriate.

13. Correspondence

- A. Franken reported that the Commission sent a letter to the CT DEEP supporting the application by the Kent Land Trust for Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition funding in connection with 25 acres on Route 341 across from Kent Hollow Road, and provided a copy of that letter for the records.
- B. The Commission received a thank-you letter for dues payment to the Connecticut Land Conservation Council.
- C. Aquarion Water sent its packet publicizing and seeking nominations for its annual Environmental Champions Awards.

14. Adjourn. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Manes
April 6, 2015