

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

REGULAR MEETING
December 9, 2015

MINUTES

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
KENT TOWN CLERK

2015 DEC 22 P 12:59

BY *Wendy Murphy*
TOWN CLERK

Present: Commissioners Liddy Baker, Melissa Cherniske, Carol Franken, Rick Levy, Connie Manes, Wendy Murphy, Donna Sommers. Advisors Laurie Doss, Jos Spelbos; guest Lindsey Kerr; reporter Lynn Worthington.

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

- A. Draft Agenda
- B. Draft Minutes, Regular Meeting November 18, 2015
- C. Approved Minutes, Regular Meeting October 14, 2015
- D. Draft KCC Activities Calendar – 2016 (and accompanying PowerPoint presentation summarizing KCC activities in spring 2015, for planning purposes)
- E. Correspondence, including:
 - i. RBV Program Announcement – New online RBV interactive maps
 - ii. RRTF December 3rd Agenda and November minutes
 - iii. Morris Media Green Awards call for nominations

- 1. Call to order.
A quorum being present, Chairperson Connie Manes called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm.
- 2. Accept/Amend Agenda.
Upon a motion by Carol Franken seconded by Melissa Cherniske, the agenda was unanimously accepted.
- 3. Review, amend, approve Minutes of Regular Meeting November 18, 2015.
A minor clerical error having been corrected, upon a motion by Wendy Murphy seconded by Liddy Baker, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 18, 2015 were unanimously approved.
- 4. Treasurer's Report.
Treasurer Liddy Baker submitted her written report along with her oral report that KCC renewed its membership to CACIWC by paying its annual dues; the balance remaining in the annual budget is \$2600. Franken submitted a receipt for refreshments purchased for the tree planting project. Community residents who received trees as part of the project will reimburse the Commission for their portion of the price of the trees, which reimbursements will be deposited into the Kuga Fund. Baker discussed and confirmed this procedure with the Town Treasurer.
- 5. Annual Workplan.
The Commissioners discussed and made several adjustments to the working draft Calendar of Activities for 2016. Manes will revise and redistribute the draft Calendar prior to January's Regular Meeting.
- 6. Reduce, Reuse Recycle Campaign.
 - A. Main Street Recycling Containers / Champagne Stroll feedback

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The Commission discussed the possibility that the recent grant awarded to the Town in connection with its purchase of land and construction of facilities for a visitor center and public restrooms could also be used, should funds remain following the purchase and improvements, to pay for permanent recycling containers on Main Street. The Commissioners agreed that recycling containers are consistent with the purpose of making the town more visitor-friendly. Commissioners will speak individually with members of the subcommittee preparing the design and construction proposal in hopes that \$5,000 for the containers can be included in the overall budget.

Lindsey Kerr shared feedback that during the Champagne Stroll the trash containers on Main Street were overflowing with waste including some that was recyclable. Kerr also voiced concern about whether the champagne glasses used during the stroll are made from recyclable materials. The Commissioners will make an effort to improve recycling during this event in 2016 by reaching out early (September) to the Chamber of Commerce regarding a recycling plan including reduction, reuse and recycling of event materials.

B. HRRA Poster contest – “Bags to Riches”. Manes reported that the theme for this year’s school poster contest is the reduction, reuse and recycling of plastic bags for improved environmental sustainability.

C. Other – IGA - The HRRA poster contest timing and theme is helpful in working with Davis IGA to implement strategies such as improved reminders to shoppers to use reusable bags. Manes is working with Gary Davis to order and distribute magnetic shopping list notepads; Davis is willing to do this in the spring but cannot do it as part of the 2015 holiday giveaway. Manes will contact HRRA to determine if funds are still available to underwrite this effort.

7. P&Z Zoning Regulations.

The commission briefly discussed the timeline for adoption of the revised Zoning Regulations.

8. Elizabeth Street trees, CT Urban Forestry America The Beautiful Grant, & Kent Historical Society request.

The Commission discussed the recent successful planting of eight trees on Elizabeth Street, expressing its thanks to Wendy Murphy for her persistence and skill in coordinating the effort. Many volunteers including the Kent Greenhouse and its employees, Kent Volunteer Fire Department and its members, and Marvelwood students joined the commissioners in contributing supplies and labor. The Commission discussed providing an award and/or other recognition to Bruce Bennett for his contributions as Tree Warden and through the Kent Greenhouse. Manes and Murphy will work on a thank you Letter to the Editor for publication in local media, and Murphy will investigate the cost for an award plaque. Cherniske will obtain written advice from Bruce regarding proper care for trees in order to provide this information to the tree recipients. Manes will check to ensure signed contracts and checks are received.

Cherniske recused herself from the meeting and left the room for the duration of the following discussion.

The Commission discussed a request received from the Kent Historical Society for funding assistance in connection with the replacement of a tree at Seven Hearths. KHS would like to accomplish the planting in connection with an Arbor Day celebration in April 2016. The Commission discussed applying for grant funding for this project as well as to purchase eight additional trees to plant on village streets in the fall. A request for proposals in connection with the America The Beautiful CT Urban Forestry program, due January 27th, presents an opportunity and the Commission agreed to apply for these funds. Murphy moved that the Commission advise the Kent Historical Society of its strong interest in their request and hopes to

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support it in full if the America The Beautiful proposal is funded. Baker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Manes then moved that if the proposal is not funded, the Commission contribute \$250 towards the tree from the Kuga Fund. Baker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Cherniske returned to the meeting.

9. Old Business.

- A. Trail Brochure/Guide.
Murphy is finalizing the text for the maps; the target publishing date is in March.
- B. Hatch Pond Watershed Implementation Committee. No report.
- C. Roxbury Conservation Commission Well Testing Program. No report.
- D. Open Space Plan. No report.

10. New Business.

- A. Natural gas pipeline and plant in Dover, NY.
We have not been able to find more information about any proposed plant. Donna Sommers joined an email list and will presumably receive information if available.
- B. Asian longhorned beetle.
Kerr confirmed that the Asian Longhorned beetle has not yet been reported in Connecticut; it is underscored that one way to prevent the spread of invasive insects is to avoid transporting firewood and other felled wood.

13. Correspondence. Save the Date for the Connecticut Land Conservation Council Annual Conference: Saturday, March 19, 2016 at Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT.

14. Adjourn. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Manes
December 22, 2015

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