

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

SPECIAL MEETING
September 21, 2016

MINUTES

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
KENT TOWN CLERK
2016 OCT 18 A 11:10
BY *D. Brady*
TOWN CLERK

Present: Commissioners Liddy Baker, Melissa Cherniske, Carol Franken, Connie Manes (chair), Rick Levy, Wendy Murphy, Donna Sommers. Advisor Jos Spelbos. Guest for item 5: John Baker. Reporter Lynn Worthington (second half of the meeting).

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

- A. Draft Agenda
- B. Approved Minutes of Regular Meeting June 22, 2016
- C. Draft Minutes of Regular Meeting July 13, 2016
- D. Greenprint letter to NHCOG regarding Local Important Farmland Soils
- E. NRCS Local Important Farmland Soils (LIFS) flyer
- F. Letter to first selectman regarding LIFS plus sample letter to NRCS
- G. DEEP Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy (CMMS) highlights
- H. DEEP press release regarding CMMS
- I. NewsTimes article regarding Washington actions on plastic bags
- J. KCC letter to Amenia ZBA regarding cell tower
- K. KCC letter to Kent IWC regarding seaplanes
- L. DEEP eNews

1. Call to order.
A quorum being present, Connie called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm.
2. Accept/Amend Agenda.
Upon a motion by Carol seconded by Melissa the agenda was unanimously accepted.
3. Review, amend, approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 13, 2016.
Under item 9 the name of Glenn Chalder will be added. Upon a motion by Liddy seconded by Melissa, the Minutes as amended were unanimously approved.
4. Treasurer's Report.
Liddy presented a copy of the 2016/17 KCC budget as approved by the town. Our budget total will remain the same as last year at \$2775. She reported that the Kuga Fund has a balance of \$7609.34, which includes \$535 designated for plantings at Kent Center School and a \$200 grant for recycling containers. Over the past several years \$6208 has been spent on the Natural and Cultural Riches of Kent publication

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through the Kuga Fund, while \$4842 was recouped through sales. The Kent Trails books have so far netted \$838.50; 400 have been printed, 70 of which are left. Wendy will hand in a bill for turtle crossing signs.

5. Kent's Eastern Gateway – Beautification proposal

John Baker gave a presentation of a proposal by an informal beautification committee for plantings along Maple Street (Rte 341) that would help screen businesses operating on Maple Street Extension. He showed a siteplan, sketches and photos of the area, and reported that the property owners are interested in screening along the boundary of the railroad right of way. He asked the Conservation Commission for support of the plans, but expects to seek funding elsewhere. The Commission wants to make sure that the owners will water and maintain the plantings and contribute to the planting. John Baker will try to ensure their commitments before the commission acts on his request.

6. NCRI update

Wendy hopes to get suggestions for revisions to The Natural and Cultural Riches (Inventory) of Kent report from the commission members soon, in the hope that a reprint can be available before the holidays. Liddy will try to send us Word versions of the individual chapters for easier editing. Melissa asked to give the reprint a different cover design.

7. RBV / Leaf packs 2016

The commission concluded that because of the extreme low water conditions the planned macro-invertebrate sampling of the town's coldwater streams this Fall has to be cancelled again. It was proposed to share water saving tips from HVA's Riversmart campaign with the first selectman for publication in the online newsletter.

8. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Campaign.

A. Streetside Containers.

The state hasn't released the money yet.

B. KAB Parks Grant.

Our request for funding of two recycling containers for public parks was turned down.

C. KAB Temporary bins.

Connie noted that we have to send in an annual report on how the bins were used; she will take care of that. Carol will write a notice on our webpage on the town's website about borrowing the bins for events.

D. WRAP.

Tabled

E. Other.

November 15 is America Recycles Day. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

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9. Old Business.

- A. Hatch Pond Tabled
- B. Well testing Tabled
- C. Open Space Plan Tabled

- D. HVA culverts project
Wendy urged that HVA or this commission also look at the condition of culverts and dams on private property.

- E. Turtle crossing
Wendy got 2 turtle crossing signs. Discussed were best locations to place them. One should be placed on Bulls Bridge Rd across from Mountain Rd.

- F. Proposed cell tower in Amenia No news
- G. Kent hikes Tabled
- H. P&Z zoning regulations Tabled

- I. NHCOG POCD update
Several commission members attended a meeting of the P&ZC where Jocelyn Ayer of the Northwest Hills Council of Governments presented new demographic data for the region's towns, gave an update on the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development planning process, and had all in attendance answer survey questions regarding a number of planning issues. This survey can also be taken on northwesthillscog.org.

10. New Business.

- A. Local Important Farmland Soils request
Connie drafted a letter to the first selectman asking him to apply to the USDA-NRCS to have farmland soils of local importance in Kent identified, so these areas become eligible for state and federal farmland protection funding. Melissa made a motion to send this letter, Wendy seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.
- B. October meeting date
Note that the next meeting is on October 19.

11. Correspondence

Connie sent letters to the Amenia Zoning Board of Appeals regarding the proposed celltower, and to the Kent Inland Wetlands Commission regarding seaplanes landing on waterbodies in Kent.

12. Adjourn.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jos Spelbos
October 15, 2016

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