

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

REGULAR MEETING
March 9, 2016

MINUTES

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
KENT TOWN CLERK

APR - 9 - 2016

TOWN CLERK

BY

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

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

- A. Draft Agenda
- B. Draft Minutes, Regular Meeting January 13, 2016
- C. Approved Minutes, Regular Meeting December 9, 2015

1. Call to order.

A quorum being present, Chairperson Connie Manes called the meeting to order at 7:14 pm.

2. Accept/Amend Agenda.

Upon a motion by Carol seconded by Wendy, the agenda was unanimously accepted.

3. Review, amend, approve Minutes of Regular Meeting January 13, 2016.

In item 3. the dates should be December 9, 2015;

under item 4. will be added that treasurer Liddy Baker submitted a written report;

under 8. will be added that the plaque will be presented on Arbor Day;

and under 9A. that the trail brochure is on track for publication at the KLT Memorial Day picnic.

Upon a motion by Wendy seconded by Liddy, the Minutes as amended were unanimously approved.

The meeting scheduled for February 10 was canceled.

4. Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer Liddy Baker had nothing to report.

5. Spring events.

A. Arbor Day

Jos will contact Kent Center School teacher Susan Makarewich to select a tree and location on the school grounds. As in previous years the commissioners voted to donate up to \$250 and volunteer labor towards a new tree, to be planted with KCS student help on Arbor Day. The hole will be dug on Thursday April 28 after school, and the ceremony will take place on Friday April 29. The tree will be ordered from Kent Greenhouse, at a discount. Liddy will ask the Garden Club for a contribution.

Wendy will order a bronze plaque that will be presented to Bruce Bennett on Arbor Day.

Melissa will enlarge the winning poster of the KCS recycling poster contest, which is sponsored by the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority.

B. Village cleanup

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The cleanup is scheduled for April 22 to May 1. Liddy is contacting road captains and will provide garbage and recycling bags. The scouts will do the village center on April 29. Marvelwood School plans to go out on April 20.

C. Library program

Carol reported that she got Jen Iannucci of the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority to do a program about recycling for young kids at the Kent Memorial Library on Wednesday April 20 at 10.30 a.m. (during Spring Break), and she arranged for Welsh Hauling to show off a hybrid garbage / recycling truck. Carol also wants to buy two books on recycling for the library. Laurie proposed doing construction projects for the kids with recycled materials.

D. Strolling for ceruleans

Laurie announced that April 16 Marvelwood will host a talk on birding and cerulean warblers. This will be the introduction to a search for the presence of cerulean warblers in Kent by teams of community members and Marvelwood students during May and June.

Laurie also mentioned that she and Marvelwood students have worked with the DEEP on creating new pictorial ID cards for aquatic macro-invertebrates. Commission members praised the improvements.

6. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Campaign.

A. DEEP Recycling Rewards and Waste Reduction Initiative grant applications.

Connie has submitted an application for a \$2000 RR grant, but hasn't drafted a WRI application yet.

B. Other – IGA; Plastic Bag bill

Connie reported that HERRA can't subsidize the IGA shopping list pads (recycling and cloth bag reminders). She noted that we can have 500 pads printed out for \$500 to hand out on Earth Day and beyond. Carol made a motion to pay \$250 towards printing 500 pads and asking Gary Davis, owner of Kent IGA, to pay the other half. Wendy seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved. Connie made reference to a proposed bill in the state legislature to levy a fee on or phase out single-use plastic bags.

7. P&Z Zoning Regulations.

The revised zoning regulations have been sent to the town's landuse lawyer for review.

Jos has sent a (private) letter to the Incentive Housing Zone subcommittee of the P&ZC regarding the possible use of a Transfer of Development Rights in this zone.

Connie noted that The Bulls Bridge Golf Club is proposing to the P&ZC that they stop testing their wells.

8. Old Business.

A. Trail Brochure/Guide.

Wendy noted that the trail guide base materials are almost finished.

B. Hatch Pond Watershed Implementation Committee. No report.

C. Roxbury Conservation Commission Well Testing Program. No report.

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D. Open Space Plan

Jos has updated the protected open space inventory for the town of Kent, and emailed the lists to the commission members and the land use officer.

Connie reported that Sam Dziekan, the GIS specialist of the HVA, is updating the region's protected open space for HVA's Greenprint, but will be leaving HVA later in March.

9. New Business.

A. CT Trail Days

The commission discussed ideas for hikes in Kent on June 4 and 5 with Connie.

B. Proposed Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge

The US Fish and Wildlife Service recently proposed creating a new wildlife refuge that consists of a number of individual areas in New England and New York State, and includes a part of Sharon, and parts of Amenia and Dover adjacent to Kent. Open space protection in these areas will be voluntary, but will be targeting shrubland and young forest habitats with associated fields, for the wildlife species that are most in decline in the region. There is interest in expanding the selected areas in our region.

C. New "Bee Bill"

The CT legislature will discuss a proposed pollinator protection bill.

10. Correspondence.

Connie handed out a copy of the CACIWC Habitat

We have been invited by the Morris Media Group to a TownVibe Green Awards celebration on March 10 in Ridgefield. Connie plans to attend.

12. Adjourn. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8.35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jos Spelbos
April 5, 2016

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