

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

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
September 16, 2020

Present: Commissioners Connie Manes (chair) (until 6.55), Liddy Baker, Melissa Cherniske, Carol Franken, and Wendy Murphy (after 6.15); advisor Jos Spelbos; first selectwoman Jean Speck (after 7.00). Absent: Donna Sommers.

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

- A. Draft Agenda by Carol
- B. Draft Minutes of Meeting of July 15, 2020 by Jos
- C. Approved Minutes of the June 17 meeting
- D. Treasurer's report by Liddy
- E. Updates on solar initiative by Wendy
- F. Request for letter of support by Warren Land Trust
- G. TrashDash announcement
- H. CLCC conference reminder

1. Call to order
The meeting was held via Zoom video conference, and started an hour earlier than usual. Connie called the meeting to order at 6.05 pm.
2. Accept/amend agenda
The agenda was accepted upon a motion by Melissa, seconded by Liddy.
3. Review, amend, approve meeting Minutes
The draft July Minutes were approved after a motion by Melissa and a second by Liddy.
4. Treasurer's report
Liddy reported the payment of \$165 in annual dues to three state organizations.
5. Public comment None
6. Old Business
 - 6B. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
Connie reported on the start of the Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management to pursue waste reduction strategies, sponsored by CT-DEEP and municipal leaders, including Kent.
Melissa advised commission members to review recent Board of Selectmen meeting minutes regarding the transfer station.
Connie suggested that we help setting up a town-wide survey to gauge interest in food waste collection.

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Liddy notified road cleanup captains of the upcoming TrashDash on September 20, and it is also posted on our Facebook page.

Wendy joined the meeting during 6B.

6A. Kent solar initiative – Green Bank Solar Municipal Assistance Program

This was discussed after 6B. Wendy has met with representatives of the Green Bank and local stakeholders, and with Liddy's assistance is setting up site visits of the buildings under consideration by solar consultants.

6C. Proposed cell tower

Several virtual meetings have been held by the CT Siting Council, with more to follow. Connie will testify on September 22, centering on the town's Plan of Conservation and Development. She recommends that the town and Fire Department pro-actively find better sites for a cell tower, before the next PoCD is written. The 2012 PoCD doesn't address improving emergency services throughout town.

6D. Update on WCCAA

Carol reported that professor Wagstrom and her graduate students are starting the air sample analysis in cooperation with DEEP. Money is needed for recalibrating the sensors of the air quality monitors. The warm weather and decrease in activity because of the pandemic will have an influence on the emissions by the Dover power plant.

6E. Update on Sustainable CT

No news

6F. Update on Kent trails guide

Liddy delivered 10 guides to the House of Books with a correction page, and has 11 guides left. Connie will forward some small trail changes on KLT properties to John Baker. Melissa is looking into replacement of the dead commemorative pin oak at town hall.

Connie left the meeting

6G. Update on Encouraging dispersed use of Kent hiking trails

Melissa noted that KLT trail kiosks have signs with Covid 19 protocols and references to alternate trails. Kent Falls State Park opened last weekend.

6H. Town newsletter

No news

7. New Business

None

8. Correspondence

The Warren Land Trust on July 16 sent the KCC a letter asking for our support of their application to CT-DEEP for OSWLA funding for the acquisition of a large parcel of land on the Warren/ Kent border. The commission in July authorized Connie via emails to send such letter in support.

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The Governor's Council on Climate Change published several draft reports and will hold public hearings via Zoom: <https://portal.ct.gov/search-results/?q=GC3%20draft%20reports#gsc.tab=0&gsc.q=GC3%20draft%20reports&gsc.page=1>
The Connecticut Land Conservation Council will hold its annual conference virtually on October 17.

First selectwoman Jean Speck joined at 7pm, and gave updates on various items discussed earlier. Some changes will be made at the transfer station. Jean attended meetings with the HRRRA on recycling and with DEEP on their new waste reduction initiative. She noted that single-stream recycling doesn't work well anymore, and we will have to change to separate waste streams. Space can be made at the transfer station. She will look into improving signage at the transfer station. Commissioners also asked for resumption of the plastic bag/ film collection and recycling and placing it under a roof. She reported on the Siting Council meetings, where the town gave testimony.

9. Adjourn.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7.40 pm by Carol.

Respectfully submitted
by Jos Spelbos
October 11, 2020

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