

**KENT CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Kent Town Hall  
41 Kent Green Boulevard  
Kent, Connecticut 06757

**Draft MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

June 17, 2020

The zoom meeting was called to order at 7:05.

Present were Connie Manes, Carol Franken, Liddy Baker, Wendy Murphy and Melissa Cherniske. Jos Spelbos arrived a little later.

The Agenda was accepted without amendments. The Minutes of the previous regular meeting on May 20, 2020 was reviewed and approved as submitted.

Liddy Baker gave the Treasurer's report. Because most of our annual activities in spring had to be cancelled due to the Corona Virus Pandemic, much of budget was not spent. After discussion we agreed that all remaining funds be returned to the Town Treasurer.

There was no public comment.

Under Old Business Wendy gave a brief report on the Kent Solar Initiative. Wendy said that the previous week she had given the Selectmen a description of the Municipal Assistance Program run by CT's Green Bank and its Utility companies to incentivize conversion of suitable municipal buildings to solar generation. She reported that Kent has made application for virtually all of its municipal buildings, including Town Hall, the Sanitation Plant, Community House, the Kent Fire Department, Kent Center School, the Senior Center, and the Town Garage. As part of the application she collected the account numbers of each building, an estimate of annual expenditures for current electricity with Eversource, and the condition and orientation of the roofs involved or the availability of ground mount space where that would be the preferred installation. She said that we would probably not hear from the Green Bank for several weeks as they are busy setting up the first towns who have applied since January when the program was launched. She will call her contact after July 4 to see when we might expect some news as to our potential conversions. She also added that Kent Memorial Library, owing to its town support, has also applied though it is not strictly a municipal building.

Next item on the agenda was Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Melissa reported that the trash and recycle bins had been returned to Main Street. Because outdoor eating and snacking is currently the only option for most eateries, there is the potential for more waste being generated.

Re; the Cell Tower Proposal near Rt. 341, a balloon float has been announced for Saturday July 4 at both locations to give resident a sense of how disruptive each location is to our horizonlines and to the rural character of the town. The Town of Kent

has applied as an Intervener but it is expected that this will be a difficult program to deny unless multiple towns become involved in the opposition.

Re: Western Connecticut Clean Air Action, Wendy and Carol Franken both gave brief reports including the fact that the Cricket Valley Plant is fully operational as of April, that WCCAA's monitors are all operating and collecting data at eight different locations, and that a technical consultant named Kristina Wagstrom has been contracted using a state grant of \$20,000 that WCCAA received last fall to cover the cost of such services. Wagstrom's stated objective in this project is "to evaluate how concentrations of major pollutants (i.e. particulate matter, ozone, and nitrogen oxide) change in Western CT because of ...Cricket Valley Energy Center." Wagstrom predicts that she and her graduate students at the University of Connecticut Computational Atmospheric Chemistry Lab will be able to know if this plant's presence is having an impact on air quality in the region and how much, cross-referencing our data with that of CT DEEP with its more sensitive instruments.

Re: Sustainable CT, Connie mentioned that it would be relatively easy for the Town of Kent to apply for this designation as we are already doing many of the programs they suggest. Wendy added that the Green Bank's MAP program was one of the major items in ranking towns as "Sustainable" .

RE: The Hiker's Guide, we have some pre-revision copies on hand as well as some new ones that reflect changes made since the first edition was published. Liddy will oversee the insertion of new data as needed when she goes for reprints. The slightly out-of-date copies will receive inserts that show changes to trails.

RE: Overcrowding on Trails due to so many people being locked in town and seeking recreation may lead us to limit use as has been necessary at Steep Rock Park and on the trail at Bulls Bridge. No firm decision made yet.

New Business, Correspondence: none .  
The meeting was adjourned at 8:17.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Murphy, Substitute Secretary June 30, 2020