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By Darlene Brady at 8:33 am, Jul 13, 2020

KENT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Kent Town Hall
41 Kent Green Boulevard
Kent, Connecticut 06757

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

May 20, 2020

Present: Commissioners Connie Manes (chair), Melissa Cherniske, Carol Franken, Wendy Murphy and Donna Sommers; advisor Jos Spelbos. Absent: Liddy Baker.

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

- A. Draft Agenda by Carol
- B. Draft Minutes of Meeting of April 15, 2020 by Jos
- C. Approved Minutes of the February 19 meeting
- D. April 17 email from Connie regarding Trex challenge results
- E. April 20 follow-up KCC letter by Connie to the first selectwoman regarding the proposed cell towers
- F. Reports by Wendy on pursuing municipal solar energy installations

1. Call to order

The meeting was held via Zoom video conference. Connie called the meeting to order at 7.04 pm.

2. Accept/amend agenda

The agenda was accepted upon a motion by Melissa, seconded by Wendy.

3. Review, amend, approve meeting Minutes

The draft April Minutes were approved after a motion by Melissa and a second by Wendy.

4. Treasurer's report

The treasurer was not present, but no new expenditures have been made. The KCC budget for next fiscal year stands at \$2495.

5. Public comment

None

6. Old Business

6A. Kent solar initiative

Wendy has researched the CT Green Bank solar incentive programs, in particular the Solar Municipal Assistance Program (MAP), and contacted their coordinator. This program makes it very affordable for municipalities to install solar panels on municipal buildings. Wendy has inventoried suitable buildings, such as the firehouse and the school, and gained the cooperation of the first selectwoman and various involved organizations. She provided the collected information on the buildings to the coordinator. Green Bank contractors will next check selected buildings for suitability. The Board of Selectmen will discuss how to proceed at their next meeting. The KCC will likely spearhead the follow-up.

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6B. Reduce, Reuse, Recycling initiatives

The IGA is planning to reopen their bottle and can redemption facility. The town transfer station is not doing so yet. The suggestion was made to ask people to donate the deposit value of bottles and cans that they throw into the recycling bins to the KCS Scholarship Fund. IGA will not restart collecting plastic bags yet.

The town's streetside garbage and recycling bins have been removed for the duration of the pandemic, and the BoS wants to put the onus of collecting on the local food establishments. Most of the conservation commissioners would like to see the town bins back on the streets for the summer season. Connie will ask Rick Lynn of the NHCOC what other towns are doing, and Melissa will contact town sanitarian Cathy Weber. After that the commission may send a letter to the BoS and the Chamber of Commerce.

6C. Update on WCCAA

Wendy noted that the Dover powerplant seems to be up and running now. The alliance has contracted a scientist to monitor and interpret the air quality data. There is no cost estimate yet for building a website, and no request for funding aid at this moment.

6D. Update on proposed cell tower

After Connie sent a letter to the selectmen the town did sign up as party and CEPA intervenor to the proceedings before the Connecticut Siting Council on April 24. Instead of just opposing celltowers in the area Connie would like the town to do a study of its own to find suitable locations that can provide cell service for the town's emergency services without impacting the viewsheds too much. Melissa noted that the new town budget does not provide funding for that.

6E. Update on Sustainable CT

Wendy is pursuing the solar initiative (see 6A). For further action the commission hopes first selectwoman Jean Speck will take the lead.

6F. Update on Kent trails guide

Wendy will ask John Baker to update the Cobble Vista Trail.
Connie mentioned that Weantinoge and Naromi land trusts are merging.

7. New Business

7A. Hiking in Kent

With several public recreation sites closed or limited in access during the pandemic, in particular Kent Falls and Bulls Bridge, Connie noted the important role of land trusts in providing hiking opportunities, and she has asked the BoS to make residents more aware of the land trust trails.

7B. CT bottle bill and bottle redemption Tabled

8. Correspondence

A representative of Noble Horizons retirement community in Salisbury inquired if we can do a presentation about our work. Connie will politely decline.

9. Adjourn.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8.50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jos Spelbos June 14, 2020

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