

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
October 21, 2020

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
KENT TOWN CLERK  
2020 NOV 17 A 10:32  
BY *D. Bradley*  
TOWN CLERK

Present: Commissioners Connie Manes (chair), Carol Franken, Wendy Murphy, Donna Sommers, and Liddy Baker (after 8.47 and 6B); advisor Jos Spelbos, first selectwoman Jean Speck (until 8.43, through 6B4), HRRRA executive director Jennifer Heaton-Jones (through 6B2), and land use administrator Donna Hayes. Absent: Melissa Cherniske.

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

- A. Draft Agenda by Carol
- B. Draft Minutes of Meeting of September 16, 2020 by Jos
- C. Approved Minutes of the July 15 meeting
- D. Links to recycling and GC3 articles
- E. October 4 update on solar initiative by Wendy

1. Call to order  
The meeting was held via Zoom video conference. Connie called the meeting to order at 7.05 pm.
2. Accept/amend agenda  
The agenda was accepted upon a motion by Wendy, seconded by Connie.
3. Review, amend, approve meeting Minutes  
The draft September Minutes were approved after a motion by Wendy and a second by Connie
4. Treasurer's report  
No changes
5. Public comment  
None
6. Old Business
  - 6A. Green Bank MAP solar initiative  
Wendy reported on her meeting with the solar consultant, and their inspection of all (semi) municipal buildings that are candidates for solar PV installation. At every site officials were present to provide information and access. The contractor and CT Green Bank will get back to Wendy with their feasibility judgements and proposals for each building.

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6B. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

6B1. Organics composting

Jean Speck and Jennifer Heaton-Jones discussed their plans to introduce food waste collection in Kent. A vendor like New Milford Farms would collect and process the food waste, which now comprises 22% of our waste stream, and make the resulting compost available to residents. With the state running short of waste handling capacity Jennifer wants to educate people to limit waste, limit contamination with non-recyclables, and to see waste as a resource, instead of incinerating it as we do now. Asked about adding yard waste Jean would like to gauge the need for that in town first since additional staff, space and permits may be needed; but vendor collection is an option too. HRRA (Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority) can provide grants to start organics collection, but additional funding is needed. Connie will send links to other towns that have good programs, and suggested checking with the IGA about their food waste procedures and see if we can combine operations.

6B2. Transfer station

Jean reported that she is looking for new staffing at the transfer station, and the BoS will consider expanded hours. Jennifer will help with improving signage at the station. It was noted that the various towns in the HRRA area have different standards for recyclables, and that we need to be clear what the requirements in Kent are, and communicate those to the residents. The HRRA will start a glass collection pilot program to minimize contamination and devaluation of mixed recycling with broken glass.

6B3. CCSMM – CT Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management

This DEEP and municipal collaboration has 4 working groups that meet virtually twice a month. Jean, Connie and Joyce Kearns are involved, and more residents are welcome to contribute their ideas. See <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-CCSMM>

6B4. Regional Recycling Task Force

Kent is represented on this HRRA committee by Joyce Kearns and sometimes Connie.

6B5,6. Other

The recycling articles referenced in an email by Jos were briefly discussed. Increased contamination in single-stream recycling and the refusal of China to accept most US recyclables has caused major problems in dealing with especially plastic waste. Most plastics are presented as recyclable by the plastics industry, but lack a market and are in reality not recycled. Emphasis should be on minimizing plastics production and usage, and on producer responsibility.

6C. Proposed cell tower

Connie testified at one of the Siting Council meetings on the ways the proposed tower conflicts with the town Plan of Conservation and Development. She recommends that the town add a budget line item next year to study the need and preferred locations of cell towers and emergency communication facilities in town. The town of Sherman did such a study.

6D. Update on WCCAA

Wendy reported that the air monitoring equipment has been temporarily taken offline for maintenance.

6E. Update on Sustainable CT

No news

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- 6F. Update on Kent trails guide  
Liddy sold the last guides. She was asked to have 40 more guides printed. Connie asked for a small change in the Cobble Brook Vista maps.
7. New Business
- 7A. Commissioner reappointments  
Commissioners recommended unanimously to extend Connie's and Carol's terms for another 3 years.
- 7B. Governor's Council on Climate Change GC3  
Connie referred to a number of very informative draft reports compiled by various subgroups, and to the public comment period which wrapped up late October. The final reports and recommendations will guide the state administration in future policies. See [DEEP.climatechange@ct.gov](mailto:DEEP.climatechange@ct.gov)
- 7C. Environmental justice bill  
This bill is under consideration in the CT legislature
8. Correspondence  
Thank-you letter from CLCC for membership dues.  
The CACIWC newsletter will be distributed online only.
9. Adjourn.  
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9.34 pm by Connie.

Respectfully submitted  
by Jos Spelbos  
November 15, 2020

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