



RECEIVED

By Darlene Brady at 10:35 am, Jan 13, 2022

TOWN OF KENT

Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday January 12, 2022 @ 6:30pm

Members in attendance:

Liddy Baker
Mike Benjamin
Melissa Cherniske
Carol Franken
Connie Manes
Wendy Murphy
Jos Spelbos

Guests and members of the public in attendance:

Donna Hayes

Jean Speck

Call to order

A quorum being present, Commission Chair Connie Manes called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

Connie made a brief statement to update the Commission that a claim appealing the decision of the Planning & Zoning Commission had been filed against the Town and the applicants for the North Main Street Conservation Development Special Permit.

1. Accept/amend Agenda. The Agenda was amended to add item 6C. Power Plants in Dover. Upon a motion by Melissa Cherniske seconded by Wendy Murphy, the Agenda as amended was unanimously accepted.
2. Accept/amend minutes of December 15, 2021. Upon a motion by Melissa Cherniske seconded by Wendy Murphy, the minutes of the December 15, 2021 Regular Meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Liddy Baker reviewed the written report submitted in conjunction with this meeting and attached hereto. There is \$10,461 currently in the Kuga Fund. Two checks for the Kuga Fund, payment for Trails Books, are anticipated from the House of Books. The Commissioners discussed the anticipated Commission budget for FY2022-2023. Liddy Baker moved that the Commission submit a budget request for \$2,495. Melissa Cherniske seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
4. Public comment – None.
5. Old Business:
Discussion item(s):
 - A. Ordinance Enabling Kent to Purchase Open Space and Other Land – Information on municipal land acquisition from other towns. Wendy Murphy will provide a written compilation of towns in Connecticut having such ordinances and also put forward a model ordinance that could be used in Kent. Connie Manes will provide Wendy with documentation from previous municipal efforts to study and promote such an ordinance in Kent. The Commission discussed possible variables in how towns have approached funding and the process of purchasing open space. The Commission's target is to have a written recommendation to share with other municipal boards by April 2022.

Updates (as needed):
 - B. Kent POCD. The next meeting of the P&Z Subcommittee overseeing preparation of the POCD is Thursday, January 27th.
 - C. Sustainable Materials Management in Kent. No update.

- D. Standardized town communications of how and when the public can participate in meetings, submit letters, etc. Advice provided at the recent town meeting on FOI is that there is no requirement that Towns standardize methods of soliciting and receiving communications and input from the public across municipal boards or with other towns. Connie Manes suggested that the Commission could act as a model and post on its webpage the ways the public can communicate using correspondence and within its meetings.
- E. ARPA funding. Connie Manes encouraged commissioners to take the ARPA survey.
- F. Kent Trails: A Hikers Guide. Thirty copies of the 2020 edition of the Trails Guide were printed and 20 have been provided to the House of Books. Liddy Baker has 10 remaining.
- G. Sustainable CT in Kent. Jean Speck advised that there is a meeting of the Sustainable CT subcommittee on Friday, January 14th. The committee is currently focusing on the Community Resilience components of the Sustainable CT program.
- H. State Legislative News. There is no legislative news. Rep. Maria Horn has been helpful in working with residents who are concerned about recent tree removal and planned continued removal of trees at Cornwall's Housatonic Meadows State Park. Melissa Cherniske advised that a protest is scheduled for Thursday, January 13th.
- 6. New Business
 - A. Native Plants/Tallamy Talk/Pollinator Pathway. The Commission discussed ways it could become involved in educating the community and communicating the importance for homeowners to landscape with native plants and reduce invasive plant populations. Ideas included:
 1. Give out information in public spaces (i.e., table at Transfer Station)
 2. Focus on this subject area for the children's Earth Day Library event (caterpillars? Butterflies?)
 3. Work with Town Hall to make demonstration spaces – shrink the amount of lawn surrounding the building.
 4. Work with Kent Center School to restore and expand its pollinator borders outside the school, and at the Outdoor Classroom.
 5. Carol will speak with Sarah Marshall at the Kent Memorial Library to arrange purchase of Douglas Tallamy's books if they are not already part of the Library collection.

The Commission will continue to discuss how to work this into its programming.

- B. Kent Housing Survey. Connie Manes encouraged commissioners to take the Kent Housing Survey.
- C. Power Plants in Dover. It has been recently reported that two power substations are planned to be constructed across the road from the Cricket Valley Energy Plant. A concerned citizen posted about it on social media and created a petition. Carol Franken advised that the Western CT Clean Air Action group is aware of this development and is gathering more information.
- 7. Correspondence. Jean Speck confirmed that there is correspondence for the Commission at Town Hall. Connie Manes will collect it.
- 8. Adjourn. There being no further business and upon the motion of Melissa Cherniske seconded by Wendy Murphy, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday February 9th @ 6:30pm
Respectfully submitted by: Connie Manes, Chair

These are draft minutes. Corrections may be made by the Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to subsequent meeting minutes for possible corrections and approval of these minutes.

Kent Conservation Commission
January 2022 Treasurer's Report
Budget 2021 - 2022

through Jan. 12th, 2021

	BUDGET	Previous	This Month	YTD Expenses	BALANCE
Enlarge Student Posters - Arbor Day	\$70.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Earthday at the Library - books	\$50.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Earthday at the Library - supplies	\$70.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Kent Land Trust Picnic - supplies	\$40.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Recycle Supplies	\$100.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Total Supplies 021-201	\$330.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$330.00
Chamber of Commerce maps	\$80.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Open Space Plan	\$300.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
NCRI Update	\$700.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Printing & Mapping 021-409	\$1,080.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,080.00
Rivers Alliance	\$50.00	\$50.00		\$50.00	
CACIWC	\$65.00	\$65.00		\$65.00	
Ct Land Conservation Council	\$50.00	\$50.00		\$50.00	
Dues 021-450	\$165.00	\$165.00	\$0.00	\$165.00	\$0.00
Full Moon Walk	\$20.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Arbor Day Tree	\$250.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Library Program for Earth Day	\$300.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Amphibian study					
Transfer Station Events	\$200.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Conference	\$100.00	\$30.00		\$30.00	
Road Clean-up - Signs	\$50.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Road Clean-up - SKS Cake	\$150.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Road Clean-up - bags and gloves	C of C	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Public Events & Conferences 021-451	\$920.00	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$890.00
TOTAL	\$2,495.00	\$195.00	\$0.00	\$195.00	\$2,300.00