

KENT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Kent Town Hall
41 Kent Green Boulevard
Kent, Connecticut 06757

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

December 16, 2020

Present: Commissioners Connie Manes (chair), Liddy Baker (from 7.04 on), Melissa Cherniske, Carol Franken, and Wendy Murphy; advisor Jos Spelbos, land use administrator Donna Hayes.

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

- A. Draft Agenda by Carol
- B. Draft Minutes of Meeting of November 18, 2020 by Jos
- C. Approved Minutes of the October 21 meeting
- D. DEEP water diversion permit for Kent School Dec.1
- E. Fuller Mountain Road culverts report from Donna Hayes Dec.2
- F. Correspondence regarding providing trail books to Chamber of Commerce
- G. Meeting calendar for 2021 by Connie

1. Call to order

The meeting was held via Zoom video conference. Connie called the meeting to order at 6.35 pm.

2. Accept/amend agenda

The agenda was amended by Connie to add 7D Commissioner Resignation after item 3, and discuss item 4 after Liddy joins. The amended agenda was accepted upon a motion by Wendy, seconded by Melissa.

3. Review, amend, approve meeting Minutes

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

7D. Commissioner resignation

Connie reported that Donna Sommers has resigned as alternate. Connie will send her a thank you from the commission for her service. Melissa noted that Laurie Doss has asked not to be included on the commission correspondence anymore.

5. Public comment

None

6. Old Business

6A. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Connie gave her impressions from a virtual meeting of the CT Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management, where the 4 subgroups reported on their progress. The Extended Producer Responsibility Working Group will push for legislation for tire and gas cylinder take back programs in 2021, similar to the existing mattress and electronics collection programs, and will promote legislation on packaging and

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household hazardous waste in 2022. The Food Scrap/ Organics WG discussed expansion of the Commercial Organics Recycling Law, curbside collection, and other options. The Increase Recycling WG discussed expanding the Bottle Bill, recycled content standards, right-to-repair laws, promoting reuse, and minimizing disposables. Unit-Based Pricing for waste disposal or pay-as-you-throw can minimize waste, but has shown to be controversial and hard to implement.

4. Treasurer's Report

Liddy reported no changes this month but will get some new bills.

6B. Kent Trail Guide

Liddy is having 70 trail guides printed, to be paid from the Kuga Fund. The Chamber of Commerce has asked us to provide 40 or 50 books free of cost to distribute to new residents. The commission is willing to do this, but the Kent Land Trust is willing to share in the cost, and the Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy will be asked to contribute too. Liddy will coordinate with the Chamber, and Connie will contact NCLC and write an accompanying note.

6C. Green Bank MAP solar initiative

Wendy heard from the Sharon Energy and Environment Commission that they are applying to the Green Bank under a different program (net-metering?) that isn't limited to high users of electricity. Some of the programs are running short of funding, and Wendy has asked representative Maria Horn to push for more state funding. Melissa noted that Marvelwood School is starting their solar installation.

6D. Update on proposed cell tower

The celltower at 93 Richards Road (a 135' monopole) has been approved by the CT Siting Council on December 7 despite municipal opposition (docket #488). A group of neighbors plans to appeal. Donna Hayes noted that the P&ZC are starting their periodic review of the town's Plan of Conservation and Development, with an update due in 2022. They are asking the Conservation Commission and others for input, and this can include language on emergency radio communications.

6E. Update on HVA culvert initiative

Several commission members and Donna attended the site visits by DEEP and HVA representatives and other officials to Fuller Mountain Road on December 2. The two culverts were built in 1937 and severely restrict fish movement through Pond Mountain Brook, as well as creating hazardous conditions during high flow. There is grant money available for the final design of open-bottom structures, and according to Donna there is money budgeted in the town's capital plan for one of the culverts.

6F. Update on WCCAA

At the request of the Board of Selectmen Wendy and Carol will update them on the air monitoring program.

6G. Update on Sustainable CT

The Board of Selectmen at their December meeting adopted the resolution to register the town for Sustainable CT and start the process of applying for municipal certification. A Sustainability Team has to be formed soon.

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7. New Business

7A. Condolence letter to John Kaminski's family

John died December 4. Since he has always fully supported our recycling promotion and road cleanup programs Connie will send an appreciation letter to his wife.

7B. KCC commissioner vacancies

Since the commission is down to five members we are looking for two new alternates. Wendy will take over doing the meeting Minutes from Jos.

7C. Kent School water diversion permit

Connie received notification from DEEP that the school's existing well permit was renewed for 10 years.

8. Correspondence

None

9. Adjourn.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8.20 pm by Connie.

Respectfully submitted
by Jos Spelbos
January 4, 2021