

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

APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
February 17, 2021

Present: Commissioners Connie Manes (chair), Liddy Baker, Melissa Cherniske, Carol Franken, and Wendy Murphy; advisor Jos Spelbos, visitor Mike Benjamin.

1. Call to order  
The meeting was held via Zoom video conference. Connie called the meeting to order at 6.38 pm.
2. Accept/amend agenda  
The agenda was accepted as written and accepted upon a motion by Liddy and Melissa.
3. Review, amend, approve meeting Minutes  
The draft January Minutes were approved as amended after a motion by Melissa and a second by Liddy.
4. Treasurer's Report. Liddy reported no change since January status. Connie asked if the Board of Finance had asked us to submit a proposed budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. It was suggested that we resubmit last year's budget as appropriate.
5. Public comment  
None
6. Old Business

**6A Sustainable Waste Management** (formerly Reduce Reuse Recycle) to later in the meeting when Jean Speck hopes to join us. We did, however, discuss in brief the Sustainable CT program which our commission favors. Still hoping that Jean may appoint a new committee to take over this project. Connie expressed KCC's willingness to help but explained why the KCC cannot take it on due to other activities. Other towns have different ways to get this done. In Cornwall it was Katie Freygang who did it almost single-handedly. Wendy said she would ask Katie how she did this. Connie wondered if much of this work could be done by a summer intern. She suggested that we might have money in our budget to get it going if an intern is found.

**6B Connecticut Legislation.** Carol provided a short list of bills that are coming up and which we should be prepared to support or oppose. They include Anaerobic digesters, Farmland Solar siting, and Pay as you throw. Melissa said that most of the items proposed this year in the short term are not likely to go very far. Connie suggested that we invite Rep Maria Horn and Sen. Craig Miner to come to one of our meetings this spring to tell us how we can be most effective in supporting various bills. Wendy mentioned that WCCAA will be asking through Maria Horn and Senator Julie Kushner for additional money to extend the work of our UConn consultants and our equipment for at least another year.

**C Kent Trails Update.** We discussed reprinting the guide to supply the Kent Chamber Initiative welcoming new residents to Kent. They have already distributed 40 welcome packs and want to do at least 20 more. We agreed to split costs as before with Chamber, KLT and Weantinoge Heritage each paying us \$72; the income from the Chamber, Weantinoge and KLT will be deposited in the Kuga Fund. We will print another 20 for copies for the Chamber plus another 30 to satisfy current needs at the House of Books and KML where they are sold. Before these run out Liddy and Connie agreed we will update the text to change Weantinoge credits and icons to that of Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy (NCLC). Whether the production and sale of books into the future will be ongoing indefinitely or end at some time in the near future is undecided but we agreed that having more copies of our Trails Book in circulation is good PR for the various town organizations and good for the KCC.

**6 D Kent POCD** revision. Connie briefly described the P&Z's plans for revising this statutory document by 2022 and said that our Commission should support their work, starting with our commission's holding a Special Meeting to become familiar with its 2010 text and come up with recommendations for changes, updates and deletions; most importantly we want to identify deficits such as Climate Science, Communications, and air quality regulations that were not imagined as necessary 10 years ago. Connie said she would in the next couple of days divide up the lengthy text into logical sections and assign them to each of us to examine in depth. She also mentioned that Jos and HVA will ultimately have to prepare an update to the Open Space map to reflect changes in property use in the last decade. Connie called for the special meeting to be held Wednesday February 24 at 6:30. The meeting will not have any other topics or Public Comments so as to focus solely on this work. The Town of Kent's reputation as a desirable community among visitors, renters and home buyers is a reflection of how important our efforts in conservation and development have been and will continue to be. We will need to get our own copies of the POCD either on line at the town website or print out same on our account.

**6E KCC Programming in April** including Earth Day Thursday April 22, Roadside Litter Clean-up, Arbor Day Celebrations at Kent Center School, April 30, and the annual Library Program for children during spring break. We decided to take these matters up in greater detail next month when we will know better what changes may occur to CT Covid rules. Liddy will build on her past list of volunteers road clean-up crews and send them solicitations to come again. Wendy suggested we distribute bags, gloves etc. to aid in the clean up in front of the IGA in time to attract any new participants. Carol has contacted Laurie Doss about running her bat program for children. Carol will aim to do that as a Zoom event on Wednesday April 14, the week of Spring break, midday. For Arbor Day as kids cannot have a program at the gym combined with planting a native tree on school grounds it was suggested that we give out tree saplings to each school child along with planting instructions and growing instructions as we did last year. KCC has money to pay for the sapling distribution if needed or we can combine forces with the Garden Club and split costs. Melissa says we got a lot of positive feedback on the program last year. She agreed to find out how many saplings we will need and whether Bartlett Tree Company can be the provider as they were last year. Wendy suggested NWCD in Torrington as an alternative source of wholesale saplings.

**6F. Update on WCCAA.** Wendy said the group had recently sent a report to Kent's Selectmen and to other public groups in the area supporting WCCAA's studies of regional air quality. The goal is to learn whether our ambient air is negatively impacted by the opening of the Cricket Valley Energy Center in Dover Plains. She said WCCAA was expecting its first technical analysis from its UCONN consultants some time in May 2021 though Covid complications continue to slow their progress.

**6G Update on Greenbank.** Wendy reported that the BoF's chair Marty Lindeman was at this very hour making a presentation to the BoF of their intention to sign on with GreenBank. Construction of the solar array and the installation of all the electronic inverters, meters etc will be in 2022. Carol suggested that we think about a town-wide program on solar options for residences and businesses coincident with the unveiling of the school's system. Incidentally, Marvelwood has applied for installation of a large array atop their Skiff Mountain campus and Kent School has some now. Wendy suggested that we might do an inventory of Green Energy solutions in Kent and possibly come up with a fund raising tour with the Kent Memorial Library.

**6H Update on Siting Council and the Cell Tower.** Connie is not aware of any new developments.

7. New Business. None

8. Correspondence

Adjourn

There being no other issues before the Commission, Liddy proposed we adjourn and Melissa seconded.  
The meeting ended at 8:03.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy Murphy  
KCC Secretary  
March 1, 2021