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**By Darlene Brady at 8:00 am, Dec 16, 2021**

# TOWN OF KENT

Conservation Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday December 15, 2021 @ 6:30p

**Members in attendance:**

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

**Guests and members of the public in attendance:**

None

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Call to order

A quorum being present, Commission Chair Connie Manes called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

1. **Accept/amend Agenda**

The Agenda was amended to add item 5H Meeting Calendar. Wendy Murphy moved to approve the agenda as amended, which motion was seconded by Liddy Baker. Melissa Cherniske voted against the motion, all others were in favor and the motion carried.

2. **Accept/amend minutes of November 17, 2021 Regular Meeting.**

The time of the meeting was corrected to 6:30 pm. Upon a motion by Wendy Murphy seconded by Liddy Baker the minutes as amended were unanimously approved.

3. **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Liddy Baker reported that an expense incurred by Jos Spelbos had been reimbursed and otherwise all balances remain the same as reported last month.

4. **Public comment – None**

5. **Old Business:**

A. [Discussed after item 5F, below]

B. **Ordinance Enabling Kent to Purchase Open Space and Other Land**

Wendy Murphy has gathered data on several towns' mechanisms for funding and purchasing open space, and has spoken with the Northwest Hills Council of Governments on the issue. The NHCOC cited Goshen's ordinance as a model that could work for Kent. Wendy will prepare a report with recommendations to inform our discussion in January's meeting. Jos reported that he had looked at the examples from the towns of Sherman and Sharon.

The Commission agreed to work towards the goal of bringing recommendations for an ordinance to the town, first seeking the support of town boards including the Planning & Zoning Commission, Board of Selectmen, and Board of Finance.

C. **Sustainable Materials Management in Kent**

Members of the Commission were not sure if the Transfer Station had been successful in filling vacancies. In previous meetings the Commission agreed to hold off on pursuing further work with the Transfer Station to improve waste management practices until there was stability in its staffing.

D. **Kent Trails: A Hikers Guide**

Connie reported that the Kent Land Trust will provide information about changes to 6 of the maps in the Hikers Guide. The Northwest CT Land Conservancy has not yet provided information. Liddy asked that information be submitted after this month's holidays.

Liddy reported that we had completely depleted our supply of the current edition, and our printer has been unable to fulfill our latest order because there is a supply chain delay in securing parts to repair her equipment.

E. Sustainable CT

The Sustainable CT committee met. Last night the Board of Selectmen appointed a new member to the committee, bringing its membership to 4.

F. WCCAA

The WCCAA continues to await the report of its consultant. There is no indication of a harmful impact to air quality attributable to the Cricket Valley plant. Air quality will continue to be monitored in case of a negative change.

[5A. Application to P&Z for Conservation Development-Subdivision in North Gateway

Connie stated that upon her information and belief, a citizens' group of which Liddy Baker is a member may be preparing a claim against the Town of Kent. This commission's minutes and meeting recordings discussing the application will be subject to subpoena. There does not seem to be any current business before the Commission relating to the application. Liddy should recuse from any future discussion; Connie and Melissa will likely do the same for good process. Liddy agreed to this plan.]

G. Kent POCD

The P&Z subcommittee on the POCD update met on December 2<sup>nd</sup> to discuss two draft chapters on the topics of Sustainability and Conservation and make recommendations for edits and revisions. The Commission will await the next draft to make comments.

*Liddy Baker left the meeting after this discussion (7:14pm) in order to attend another meeting.*

H. KCC Meeting Calendar

The Commission agreed to leave the calendar as published, with March's meeting beginning at 7pm.

6. New Business

A. ARPA funds

The Commission discussed the letter received from the ARPA Assessment Committee. All took note of the ongoing survey, open through January 15<sup>th</sup>. The Commission agreed that it did not feel it had any needs related to expenses or financial hardship due to ARPA, and did not have need to make a request for funding at this time. There was discussion as to whether Town needs such as electric vehicle charging stations would be an allowable use of the ARPA funds, but no definitive answer to this question.

B. Water testing for homeowners with wells

Wendy discussed her recent experience of having her water tested and her desire to find an affordable testing company as a service to Kent's residents with wells. There was no consensus on action the committee could take towards this aspiration, but members agreed it would be helpful to educate residents about the importance of water testing.

C. Standardized town communications to inform meetings, submission etc.

Wendy spoke with the Northwest Hills Council of Governments about the need for a standard and accessible process for submitting communications to and accessing records of Town boards. The NHCOC agreed to discuss this at its regular meeting in February 2022.

D. State legislative news

There was nothing new to discuss in relation to this item

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.

7. Correspondence  
See item 6A above re: letter from ARPA Assessment Committee.
8. Adjournment  
There being no further business and upon a motion by Melissa Cherniske seconded by Wendy Murphy, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 pm.

*NEXT MEETING: Wednesday January 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm*

Respectfully submitted by: Connie Manes, Chair

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41 Kent Green Boulevard, P.O. Box 678 Kent, CT 06757-0678  
**Phone: (860) 927-4627 ☐ Fax: (860) 927-1313 [www.townofkentct.org](http://www.townofkentct.org)**