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KENT TOWN CLERK

2017 MAY 30 A 4 03

TOWN CLERK

BY

KENT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Kent Town Hall
41 Kent Green Boulevard
Kent, Connecticut 06757

REGULAR MEETING

May 10, 2017

MINUTES

Present: Commissioners Liddy Baker, Melissa Cherniske, Carol Franken, Rick Levy, Connie Manes, Wendy Murphy, Donna Sommers; advisor Jos Spelbos.

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

- A. Draft Agenda
- B. Draft Minutes of Regular Meeting April 12, 2017
- C. Approved Minutes of the March 2017 meeting
- D. A photo of a newly constructed trash/recycling bin

1. Call to order.

A quorum being present chair Connie Manes called the meeting to order at 7.08 pm.

2. Accept/Amend Agenda.

Upon a motion by Carol seconded by Wendy the agenda as presented was unanimously accepted with the following changes: the numbering was corrected, and added under new business was a report on Americorps.

3. Review, amend, approve minutes of Regular Meeting of April 12, 2017.

Upon a motion by Carol seconded by Rick the Minutes as drafted were unanimously approved.

4. Treasurer's Report and Budget.

Liddy submitted her written report, listing expenses for the Kent Trail Guide reprint, dues, a conference, and the road clean-up, totaling \$1196.46, leaving a balance of \$1070.68.

Melissa and Jos presented a request from the KCS Schoolyard Habitat Committee for financial help towards purchasing a number of native, wildlife attracting shrubs for the outdoor classroom behind Kent Center School. Upon a motion by Wendy, seconded by Carol, and with Melissa abstaining, the commission approved spending up to \$250 on those shrubs. Melissa will provide the commission with an invoice and with a report on the Committee's activities.

5. Public Comment

None

6. April events

6A. Spring litter clean-up

Liddy reported that the road cleanup around Earth Day was a success, with 44 resident groups and several schools and scout groups participating. The fact that less trash was collected, despite more people

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collecting, seems to indicate that clean roadsides discourage littering and that more residents pick up litter throughout the year.

6B. Library children's event

Carol reported that the presentation about bees was very well received and well attended, and received nice newspaper coverage.

6C. KCS Arbor Day program

Connie, Melissa and Jos reported on the planting of the maple tree donated by the KCC and the Garden Club, and on work done on the outdoor classroom behind the Kent Center School. We will have to make sure that somebody at the school takes responsibility for watering the tree, as well as the plantings in the outdoor classroom.

7. Kent Land Trust Picnic

This will take place on Memorial Day, May 29 from 11-1. Donna, Carol and Wendy will staff a table for the KCC, and have the trail guides for sale.

8. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle campaign

8A. Streetside recycling containers

The first custom bin has been built and was shown in a photo. Liddy will work on getting signs for the bins.

8B. WRAP plastic bag and film recycling campaign

Carol wants to find a way to make cloth bags available to everyone in town.

9. NCRI update and Open Space Plan

Connie reported that the locally important farmland soils have been mapped by the NRCS, and that the HVA has hired a new GIS specialist. Jos noted that the links to our Natural and Cultural Resource Inventory chapters and maps no longer exist on the renovated town website. We will contact the town clerk. We would also like to add the text of the trail guide on the website.

10. NHCOG POCD update and Trails project

No news

11. Reports

11A. Climate March

Connie marched in Washington DC and Wendy and Rick marched in New Milford on April 29. They are wondering how to turn the positive energy gained there into positive action in our communities.

11B. River Road and North Kent Road gates

Connie mentioned that the Board of Selectmen decided to install lockable gates to limit overuse and littering of the Housatonic River shore during the summer season, and will put up no parking signs along North Kent Road, while Appalachian Trail volunteers will put up signs on River Road. The Kent Land Trust Stewardship Committee intends to do some monitoring at North Kent Road, but she noted that it is important to put up signs there that tell visitors what is and isn't allowed. Since that pertains to state land the state DEEP has to be involved.

12. Old Business

12A. Kent Welcome Center

Wendy wants to design a welcome booklet with information about town organizations, land use and environmental issues.

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- 12B. P&ZC Zoning Regulations
Progress on the revisions is slow.
- 12C. Turtle crossing signs
Liddy will approach town officials again to get them to put up the signs on Camps Flat Road.
- 12D. Hatch Pond
Wendy would like to see the town act against potential pollution from a leaking garbage pile next to a private residence along the pond. The commission asked her to contact the land use officer about this as an individual.
13. New Business
- 13A. CT Trail Days
Connie noted that The Kent Land Trust, South Kent School and Pond Mountain Trust will host hikes on June 3 and 4
- 13B. Vernal pools
Wendy was wondering if vernal pools in Kent have appropriate protection. Jos and Connie noted that the Inland Wetlands Commission has jurisdiction, since they are wetlands, and their Forestry Regulations have some added protections. But surrounding upland areas important for the amphibians that use the pools have much less protection, and when dry, vernal pools are not always recognized. Jos will see if the potential vernal pools mapped by the KCC can be added to the town's wetlands map.
- 13C. Americorps
Connie informed the commission that a team of Americorps volunteers did work on the Appalachian Trail and Kent Land Trust properties in March, and will be back to help the KLT and HVA-Greenprint again later this year.
14. Correspondence
Carol passed on a Thank-you note from the Kent Memorial Library.
15. Adjourn.
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9.00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jos Spelbos, May 29, 2017

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