

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

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
January 15, 2020

Present: Commissioners Connie Manes (chair), Liddy Baker, Melissa Cherniske, Carol Franken and Donna Sommers; advisor Jos Spelbos. Absent: Wendy Murphy.

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

- A. Draft Agenda by Carol
- B. Draft Minutes of Meeting of December 11, 2019 by Jos
- C. Approved Minutes of the November 13 meeting
- D. Link to blog on recycling

1. Call to order

Connie called the meeting to order at 6.37 pm.

2. Accept/amend agenda

After agreeing to add item 7D about Aquarion land the amended agenda was approved upon a motion by Melissa, seconded by Liddy.

3. Review, amend, approve meeting Minutes

The draft December Minutes were approved after a motion by Melissa and a second by Connie.

4. Treasurer's report

Liddy reported no new expenses. She noted that the town treasurer asked the commission to turn in a budget proposal for 2020/21 on January 16. A motion by Connie to submit the same \$2495 budget request as last year, minus the one-time \$4500 expenditure for an air quality monitor and with a change in budget line heading, was seconded by Melissa and approved unanimously.

5. Public comment

None

6. Old Business

6A. Update on proposed cell tower

At a well-attended public hearing by the BoS and the applicants in town hall on November 13 a lot of opposition was expressed by the public, and the letter by the commission was entered into the record. On January 18 a balloon float is planned for the two sites on Bald Hill Road and Richards Road.

6B. Sustainable CT – Community Match Fund

Connie noted that the program is gaining ground in the state. Melissa mentioned that Josh Szwed and Dana Slaughter want to get Kent Center School involved in the program. More discussion may take place at our next meeting.

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- 6C. Reduce, Reuse, Recycling initiatives
Connie expressed her doubts about the benefits of publishing a press release about the Kent merchant participation survey now, and would like us to concentrate more on waste reduction. Discussion took place about producer responsibility and about contamination of and markets for recyclables. Signage at the transfer station needs to be improved and a recycling guide may be linked to the selectman's newsletter. Connie will invite first selectwoman Jean Speck to one of our next meetings to discuss the transfer station and recycling programs, as well as Sustainable CT.
- 6D. WCCAA update
Carol reported that the power plant in Dover hasn't started up yet, which gives the WCCAA more time to collect baseline air quality data.
- 6E. Kent Trails Guide
Liddy has 24 copies left, and the library and bookstore have some left too.
7. New Business
- 7A. Election of officers
No changes are proposed for this year. Connie will remain chair, Carol vice-chair, Liddy treasurer, Jos will do the Minutes.
- 7B. Schedule of April events
Easter is on April 12, KCS school vacation April 11-19, Earth Day Wednesday April 22, and Arbor Day Friday April 24. The library program organized by Carol will likely be scheduled for April 15. The town road cleanup organized by Liddy is tentatively scheduled for April 17-26. The tree planting at KCS organized by Jos is scheduled for April 23 and 24.
- 7C. Filling vacancy for alternate
We will keep looking for suitable and interested candidates.
- 7D. Aquarion Land
Connie was made aware by the Aquarion Water Company that they are decommissioning an 8.3 acre parcel # 10-40-1, at the Segar Mountain Road / South Kent Road intersection behind the CT-DOT salt shed, and plan to sell it. It has protective easements by CT-DEEP and the Nature Conservancy, and is the site of a former public well that according to DEEP is polluted. The Kent Land Trust is not interested in acquiring the land.
8. Correspondence None
9. Adjourn.
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8.09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jos Spelbos
February 1, 2020

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