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By Darlene Brady at 3:02 pm, Jul 13, 2022

**Kent Sustainability Team
Special Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2022 | 10:00 AM | Via Zoom**

In attendance:

Members: Miranda Lovato, Jean Speck, Joanne Wasti

Guests/public: Melissa Cherniske, Lynn Harrington, Sustainable CT Fellow Serena Livingston,

1. **Meeting called to order at 1001**
2. **Vote on new Chairman for Kent Sustainable CT Team:**
MOTION: J. Speck/2nd J. Wasti | Appoint Miranda Lovato chair of the Kent Sustainability Team.
DISCUSSION: at the last meeting, Lianna Gantt notified the Team that she is stepping down as chair.
VOTES: in favor: M. Lovato, J. Speck, J. Wasti.
3. **Accept/Amend Minutes from the June 22nd meeting:**
MOTION: J. Wasti/2nd J. Speck | Approve minutes of the June 22nd meeting as submitted.
DISCUSSION: none
VOTES: in favor: M. Lovato, J. Speck, J. Wasti.
4. **Discussion of guidance and support available from Sustainable CT Fellows –**
Serena Livingston, NWHCOG Sustainable CT Fellow: *Serena provided information and resources on Sustainable CT program.*
5. **Update on “Workshop on Native Species and Planting of the Library Garden” event at the Library on Saturday, June 11 –** ***Miranda Lovato:*** *Miranda attended workshop and provided brief update.*
6. **Update on Conservation Commission Meeting attendance –** ***Miranda Lovato:*** *Miranda will continue to attend these meetings and update the Team.*
7. **Update on draft POCD –** ***Joanne Wasti:*** *Joanne provided update on engagement and discussion at the POCD public forum related to the inclusion of more sustainability concepts into the POCD (KST comment sheet is included in these minutes).*
8. **Discuss Action 4.2.1 (Poet Laureate):** *Joanne proposed reaching out to the the Kent Memorial Library to collaborate on this project. Joanne will reach out and follow up at next meeting.*
9. **Discuss the C-PACE program and our Team’s possible participation in the planned Oct. 15 Clean Energy Program:** *Miranda will attend Conservation Commission Meeting this evening to learn more. Serena offered to send learning webinar links about C-Pace to the Team.*
10. **Discuss Action 4.4 (Youth Arts Program) and the Equity Toolkit:** *Joanne has been attending KCS Community committee and is going to begin planning a roundtable discussion on youth arts. Serena recommended connecting with an Equity Coach from Sustainable CT – she will connect the Team with a coach.*
11. **Discussion of any other Sustainable CT Actions and any activity team members**

have been able to undertake since the last meeting: *Joanne has done some research into Action item 4.3 Creative Placemaking; Miranda submitted content for 3.4 Open Space Plan, and is looking into 5. Dynamic & Resilient Planning and 7. Renewable and Efficient Energy Infrastructure and Operations.*

12.Meeting adjourned at 1051

Respectfully submitted by Jean Speck

Note: Minutes are considered 'draft' and are not considered final until approved at a future meeting, which may include subsequent edits.

To the members of the P&Z Commission and POCD SubCommittee:

The members of the Kent Sustainability Team thank you for including sustainability and resilience in the 2022 Plan of Conservation and Development and for acknowledging the work we are doing with Sustainable CT.

As mentioned in your opening paragraph for sustainability and resiliency, many of the concepts are overarching and are included throughout the POCD. The Sustainable CT actions are also broad in nature and we have found a few areas of the POCD where we think it would be beneficial to either include some of the actions or align the text with the actions. The actions are numbered and can be found in more detail [here](#).

1. Equity is an important part of sustainability (action 1.1) and we would ask that a statement be included, either in the overview (section 1.1, page 3) or at the beginning of the section on sustainability (section 2, page 19). Below are three examples of a brief equity statement:
 - a. Kent recognizes the intrinsic value of each member of the community and the need to connect with everyone, regardless of a person's race, gender, age, or sexual identity.
 - b. We recognize that sustainability starts with equity and Kent will create a table where diverse relationships are welcomed and valued, where decisions are made collectively, and where success is measured by the variety of perspectives and experiences represented.
 - c. The POCD recognizes the many values of diversity to strengthen civic engagement, local economies, arts and culture, community resilience, and more and will include more diverse voices in our decision making processes, and identify barriers to access for underrepresented residents in order to determine and respond to community priorities.
2. Participate in and promote the C-PACE (Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy) program (action 2.6). There is already one business in town that is part of this program, which makes green energy upgrades more accessible and affordable. This could fit into section 2.1(7c or d) on page 20.
3. Developing a creative placemaking plan and incorporating it into the POCD (action 4.3) is of primary importance. However, we recognize that such a plan does not currently exist and we are hoping the draft POCD might be modified to recognize the possibility of creating and incorporating such a plan in the future. Perhaps under section 2.1(10e) on page 21. In addition, Sustainable CT recognizes the importance of vibrant and creative cultural ecosystems, which is absent from the section (2) on sustainability.

4. Action 5.1 requires the integration of sustainability into the POCD with the following requirements:

a. Include at least four Hazard Mitigation Plan goals:

Hazard Mitigation Goals:

- **REQUIRED:** Clearly identify up-to-date natural hazard areas and map them on the future land use map.
- **REQUIRED:** Adopt land use policies in the POCD that encourage land protection within natural hazard areas and discourage development or redevelopment within natural hazard areas.
- **OPTIONAL:** Provide adequate space for expected future growth in areas outside of natural hazard areas.
- **OPTIONAL:** Identify/Incorporate an action to undertake an evacuation and shelter plan to deal with emergencies from natural hazards.
- **OPTIONAL:** Adopt transportation policies that limit access to natural hazard areas.
- **OPTIONAL:** Adopt economic development or redevelopment strategies that include provisions for mitigating natural hazards.
- **OPTIONAL:** Institute infrastructure policies that limit extension of existing facilities that would encourage development in areas vulnerable to natural hazards. Limit extension of existing facilities and services that would encourage development in areas vulnerable to natural hazards.
- **OPTIONAL:** Adopt a policy to harden/protect existing critical facilities and important cultural resources that are located in vulnerable areas.

b. Incorporate at least three sustainability concepts as policy from the list provided below (20 points for first three concepts, 5 points per additional concept) See attached sustainability concepts document and our list of specific items on the next page.

- Concept 1: Land Use Patterns
- Concept 2: Compatible Physical Development and Stewardship
- Concept 3: Municipal Programs
- Concept 4: Community Character and Livability
- Concept 5: Economic Vitality and Resilience
- Concept 6: Resilient Infrastructure
- Concept 7: Other

5. Finally, we would encourage the POCD to use the findings of the Kent Community Resilience Building Summary of Findings, which was the result of a workshop facilitated by the Nature Conservancy and Sustainable CT on March 15, 2022 and includes input from community stakeholders. You can find it [here](#).

Respectfully submitted by the Kent Sustainability Team
Lianna Gantt
Miranda Lovato
Jean Speck
Joanne Wasti

Sustainable CT Sustainability Concepts in Action

Concept 1: Land Use Patterns

Land use patterns are one of the most visible indicators of human impact, reflecting the physical, chemical, biological, social and economic factors of a community. Plans of Conservation & Development afford the opportunity to balance these factors and recommend actions to maintain or change current land uses or propose new future land uses as a means of achieving a community's intended vision.

- a. Create appropriate buffers and transitions between land uses
- b. Accommodate shifting demographics and employment trends
- c. Protect existing neighborhoods
- d. Make uses and densities consistent with infrastructure and community facilities
- e. Minimize conflicts between land uses
- f. Encourage flexible and innovative economic strategies to reduce the burden on infrastructure
- g. Promote growth that integrates a diversity of lifestyles

Concept 2: Compatible Physical Development & Stewardship

Compatible development is planned and designed with careful regard for all resources, human and nonhuman, and for the character of the landscape. We are not separate from our ecosystem and natural resources, including land and water, should not be looked upon as conquests but as our partners--critical components of the intricate balance of nature. This is not to say we should avoid developing but should do so with thought to use, design, and intensity.

- a. Identify and create protective strategies for significant landforms and viewsheds
- b. Create land use transitions to account for not only use but the form and scale of buildings
- c. Ensure that development density considers transportation network, availability of transit, and active transportation linkages
- d. Direct more intense development to areas already disturbed or in need of revitalization or redevelopment
- e. Engage in resource management planning of open space, greenbelts and conservation easements
- f. Develop protection and creation strategies for pollinator habitat
- g. Incentivize green building and sustainable site development
- h. Identify suitable locations for large-scale solar arrays
- i. Conduct assessment of potential compatible renewable energy sites
- j. Inventory, monitor, and manage invasive species
- k. Identify sensitive areas appropriate for context-driven site layout

Concept 3: Municipal Programs & Operations

Putting sustainability into practice involves actions at all scales of municipalities operations. Through the POCD process a municipality can advance sustainability by adopting policies and prescribing actions that promote social, economic, and environmental well-being.

- a. Establish framework for annual sustainability audits
- b. Consider emerging technologies for waste reduction and management
- c. Reduce hazardous waste, e-waste, and construction/demolition waste
- d. Manage watersheds and seasonal variations affecting water quality
- e. Practice resiliency and preparedness
- f. Incorporate active transportation into road construction and maintenance
- g. Benchmark purchasing of green products
- h. Create public-private partnerships in pursuit of renewable energy
- i. Audit energy use of buildings and public facilities
- j. Establish process for green building and energy star benchmarks for renovations and new construction

Concept 4: Community Character and Livability

A community has its own sense of identity, established through a unique set of physical and social characteristics. Celebrating and preserving this character while improving physical conditions and promoting opportunities for all residents regardless of origins or income, provides cohesion and stability to a community while building resiliency to buffer dramatic swings in economic and sociopolitical conditions.

- a. Preserve neighborhoods; particularly those undergoing gentrification or displacement
- b. Preserve historic and cultural assets, scenic areas, and prominent viewsheds
- c. Establish and improve connectivity via active transportation
- d. Provide parks and recreation facilities and programs to meet the diverse needs of the community
- e. Identify programs and land use policies that provide community gardening and local food production
- f. Ensure affordable housing options and diverse housing types
- g. Identify environmental justice issues and establish actions and timelines for addressing them
- h. Conduct land use analyses to determine locations and density for a diversity of housing types, including affordable and “missing middle” housing

Concept 5: Economic Vitality and Resilience

A community that is prepared to deal with both positive and negative changes in its economic health by building reliance on and support for other local businesses provides a foundation for long-term business viability. POCD strategies should support local business owners and their employees.

- a. Monitor market conditions and consequences to land use and socioeconomic conditions
- b. Provide programming and assistance for small or minority businesses
- c. Create business retention strategies for companies who employ residents or re-invest locally
- d. Coordinate transportation investments with employment nodes to provide workforce support
- e. Provide education and outreach to support green building and energy efficiency to reduce operational costs
- f. Streamline approvals for expansions or renovations that include green building, alternative energy, or other sustainable benchmarks
- g. Support innovation, entrepreneurs, and a wide range of industries
- h. Evaluate need and demand for transportation options, fiber optics, and amenities in support of business retention and attraction

Concept 6: Resilient Infrastructure

DEFINITION: The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions. (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2009)

Disruption to infrastructure impacts everyone—businesses, households and municipalities. One single event can translate into millions of dollars in direct costs alone and years of recovery. Pushing beyond mitigation and adaptation and incorporating pro-active planning analyses and avoidance strategies into POCDs would provide a foundation for strengthening a community’s ability to withstand disruption, regardless of whether it is climate-related or not.

- a. For coastal communities, uphold existing resiliency plans and determine priorities to be addressed through land use/zoning
- b. Perform benchmark analyses for inland communities using pertinent coastal communities to identify necessary data needs, evaluations, and strategies
- c. Allocate staff time for resiliency planning and annual planning sessions with emergency preparedness, engineering, water pollution control and private utilities
- d. Incentivize ecosystem-based resiliency solutions in public and private development projects
- e. Incorporate client resiliency into the public procurement process for designing and building infrastructure
- f. Explore innovative financing instruments that incentivize resilient infrastructure

Suggestions for specific additions of the KST to existing tables in the 2022 POCD:

Table 2.1 Enhance Sustainability (p. 24): KST is identified as a Partner. The topic areas relate to Sustainable CT Action 6.4 (Support Zero Emission Vehicle Deployment).

Table 2.2 Promote Resiliency (p. 26): KST is identified as a Partner. The topic areas relate to Sustainable CT Action 5 (Dynamic and Resilient Planning) and its subparts.

Table 3.1 Protect Natural Resources (p. 33): Please identify KST as a Partner. The topic areas relate to Sustainable CT Action 3 (Well-Stewarded Land and Natural Resources) and its subparts.

Table 3.2 Preserve Open Space (p. 36): Please identify KST as a Partner. The topic areas relate to Sustainable CT Action 3 (Well-Stewarded Land and Natural Resources), and its subparts.

Table 3.3 Promote Farms and Farming (p. 38): Please identify KST as a Partner. The topic areas relate to Sustainable CT Action 5.3 (Develop Agriculture-Friendly Practices).

Table 3.4 Preserve and Promote Cultural Resources (p. 42): Please identify KST as a Partner. The topic areas relate to Sustainable CT Action 5.5 (Inventory and Assess Historic Resources) and Action 4 (Vibrant and Creative Cultural Resources) and its subparts.

Table 3.5 Character Resources (p. 52): Please identify KST as a Partner. The topic area regarding lighting relates to Sustainable CT Action 3.13 (Promote Dark Skies).

Table 4.1 Maintain/Enhance Kent Village Center (p. 63): Please identify KST as a Partner. The topic areas relate to Sustainable CT Action 6 (Clean and Diverse Transportation Systems and Choices) and its subparts and Sustainable CT Action 2 (Thriving Local Economies) and its subparts.