

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
December 16, 2020

Present: Commissioners Connie Manes (chair), Liddy Baker (from 7.04 on), Melissa Cherniske, Carol Franken, and Wendy Murphy; advisor Jos Spelbos, land use administrator Donna Hayes.

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

- A. Draft Agenda by Carol
- B. Draft Minutes of Meeting of November 18, 2020 by Jos
- C. Approved Minutes of the October 21 meeting
- D. DEEP water diversion permit for Kent School Dec.1
- E. Fuller Mountain Road culverts report from Donna Hayes Dec.2
- F. Correspondence regarding providing trail books to Chamber of Commerce
- G. Meeting calendar for 2021 by Connie

1. Call to order

The meeting was held via Zoom video conference. Connie called the meeting to order at 6.35 pm.

2. Accept/amend agenda

The agenda was amended by Connie to add 7D Commissioner Resignation after item 3, and discuss item 4 after Liddy joins. The amended agenda was accepted upon a motion by Wendy, seconded by Melissa.

3. Review, amend, approve meeting Minutes

The draft November Minutes were approved after a motion by Melissa and a second by Wendy.

7D. Commissioner resignation

Connie reported that Donna Sommers has resigned as alternate. Connie will send her a thank you from the commission for her service. Melissa noted that Laurie Doss has asked not to be included on the commission correspondence anymore.

5. Public comment

None

6. Old Business

6A. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Connie gave her impressions from a virtual meeting of the CT Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management, where the 4 subgroups reported on their progress. The Extended Producer Responsibility Working Group will push for legislation for tire and gas cylinder take back programs in 2021, similar to the existing mattress and electronics collection programs, and will promote legislation on packaging and household hazardous waste in 2022. The Food Scrap/ Organics WG discussed expansion of the Commercial Organics Recycling Law, curbside collection, and other options. The Increase Recycling WG discussed expanding the Bottle Bill, recycled content standards, right-to-repair laws, promoting reuse, and

minimizing disposables. Unit-Based Pricing for waste disposal or pay-as-you-throw can minimize waste, but has shown to be controversial and hard to implement.

4. Treasurer's Report

Liddy reported no changes this month but will get some new bills.

6B. Kent Trail Guide

Liddy is having 70 trail guides printed, to be paid from the Kuga Fund. The Chamber of Commerce has asked us to provide 40 or 50 books free of cost to distribute to new residents. The commission is willing to do this, but the Kent Land Trust is willing to share in the cost, and the Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy will be asked to contribute too. Liddy will coordinate with the Chamber, and Connie will contact NCLC and write an accompanying note.

6C. Green Bank MAP solar initiative

Wendy heard from the Sharon Energy and Environment Commission that they are applying to the Green Bank under a different program (net-metering?) that isn't limited to high users of electricity. Some of the programs are running short of funding, and Wendy has asked representative Maria Horn to push for more state funding. Melissa noted that Marvelwood School is starting their solar installation.

6D. Update on proposed cell tower

The celltower at 93 Richards Road (a 135' monopole) has been approved by the CT Siting Council on December 7 despite municipal opposition (docket #488). A group of neighbors plans to appeal. Donna Hayes noted that the P&ZC are starting their periodic review of the town's Plan of Conservation and Development, with an update due in 2022. They are asking the Conservation Commission and others for input, and this can include language on emergency radio communications.

6E. Update on HVA culvert initiative

Several commission members and Donna attended the site visits by DEEP and HVA representatives and other officials to Fuller Mountain Road on December 2. The two culverts were built in 1937 and severely restrict fish movement through Pond Mountain Brook, as well as creating hazardous conditions during high flow. There is grant money available for the final design of open-bottom structures, and according to Donna there is money budgeted in the town's capital plan for one of the culverts.

6F. Update on WCCAA

At the request of the Board of Selectmen Wendy and Carol will update them on the air monitoring program.

6G. Update on Sustainable CT

The Board of Selectmen at their December meeting adopted the resolution to register the town for Sustainable CT and start the process of applying for municipal certification. A Sustainability Team has to be formed soon.

7. New Business

7A. Condolence letter to John Kaminski's family

John died December 4. Since he has always fully supported our recycling promotion and road cleanup programs Connie will send an appreciation letter to his wife.

7B. KCC commissioner vacancies

Since the commission is down to five members we are looking for two new alternates.
Wendy will take over doing the meeting Minutes from Jos.

7C. Kent School water diversion permit

Connie received notification from DEEP that the school's existing well permit was renewed for 10 years.

8. Correspondence

None

9. Adjourn.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8.20 pm by Connie.

Respectfully submitted

by Jos Spelbos

January 4, 2021

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
January 20, 2021

Present: Commissioners Connie Manes (chair), Liddy Baker , Melissa Cherniske, Carol Franken, and Wendy Murphy; advisor Jos Spelbos, visitor Mike Benjamin.(arrived and welcomed at 7 pm), First Selectman Jean Speck @7:30.

1. Call to order
The meeting was held via Zoom video conference. Connie called the meeting to order at 6.43 pm.
2. Accept/amend agenda
The agenda was amended by? Connie. The amended agenda was accepted upon a motion by Melissa and seconded by Wendy..
3. Review, amend, approve meeting Minutes
The draft December Minutes were approved after a motion by Melissa and a second by Liddy.
4. Treasurer's Report. Liddy said two checks had gone out to Wendy and Jos for expenses incurred on behalf of the Commission.
5. Public comment
None
6. Old Business
 - 6A. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle . Connie reported that a Sustainable Waste Mgmt Town Meeting was held on Jan TK to discuss a new ordinance (Ch. 16 Solid Waste and Recycling). The ordinance actually dates to 2017 but had never been brought to public discussion. Connie and Jos attended the hearing but there was very little discussion. She thinks that the ordinance is now being passed as part of an effort to standardize the practices of all the towns under Waste Management contract. Our current contract goes to 2029 so the changes proposed are primarily to drop outdated language and to emphasize certain features that have become essential to managing waste more efficiently. Connie said a vote would be taken on the amendment on Thursday, January 21. As always the crux of the problem comes down to reducing the quantity of waste that the town and then Waste Management must handle. State landfills and other facilities are due to reach maximum capacity in a couple of years. Melissa commented that the Pandemic has had a major impact on the way people shop, with many retail items now arriving by Fed-X, UPS and USPS in wasteful cardboard and Styrofoam packaging.
Connie explained that a recent letter from the Selectmen's Office explained the turnover of staff at the Transfer Station including the painting of traffic lanes, the temporary closing of the Swap Shop. A new manager was slated to be interviewed immediately. Glass recycling guidelines will be issued as soon as specifics about separating colors are decided. Also discussed was the interest in handling organic waste more efficiently and with environmental considerations in towns like ours.

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"Pay as You Throw" is not a popular option (users being billed per waste bags dropped at the Transfer Station) but it does work to make people more conscious of how much trash they are producing; the state may eventually mandate this method. Banning PFAs and single-use bags and containers are also under consideration. A full report from CCSMM Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management is due out sometime after February 1. As this issue is going to play a major role in town finances and management for years to come Melissa suggested that we ask Maria Horn and Craig Minor to speak to us.

Jean Speck having arrived from another meeting, she answered questions relating to continuing discussions with HRRRA as to reduce tonnage. Aerobic digesters which are used in large communities are too expensive for small towns like ours. The ordinance will include fines if individuals fail to separate refuse according to clearly stated rules.

6B Kent Trail Guide and Kent Chamber Initiative Discussion focused on an additional number of Trails Books (as many as 70 on top of the original 39) which the Chamber of Commerce wishes us to provide and partially pay for. Melissa said she had vetted the new list as well as the old and felt that the Chamber was being appropriately selective in the Welcome bags it was distributing. After some discussion we agreed that the purpose of our Trail Books was to get our citizens out enjoying Kent's recreational offerings and that we were thus willing to pay our share of printing costs as before. Over 700 copies have been circulated to date according to Liddy. We have also places 30 copies for sale at the House of Books and 10 at the Library's front desk.

6C. Update WCCAA. Wendy said that the instruments used for collecting data were currently undergoing recalibration and the replacement of old sensors and should be back on line in early February. She said she hoped to have some kind of brief report on WCCAA's activities prepared for the Selectmen by their next meeting on February 9. She added that the Cricket Valley Plant was reported by the citizen's group in Dover Plains to be running at half power which is a factor to evaluate when the air quality scientists at UConn do their longitudinal study of air quality in our six member towns.

6D Update Green Bank Municipal Assistance Solar Program. Wendy reports that the Board of Education is proceeding nicely with the Green Bank people on developing the school's solar program in line with plans for other remodeling and repair schedules.

6E. Update on Siting Council and Tower. Jean Speck reported that the town decided not to participate further in the citizens' appeal to deny ATT's right to construct a tower on Richards Road. Considerable monies have already been expended and the Selectmen have decided to form a committee to look into broadband as an alternative

6F. Connie discussed GC3 The Governor's Council on Climate Change which she attended

7. New Business.

7A Kent POCD Revision. Jean Speck said she was not ready to give a report. The earlier POCD dates from 2012. Notably absent from that document is any discussion of Communications, so our regulations did not address such matters as cell towers when they came along. Jean did speak about Climate Change issues for which the State Legislature is developing policy. Climate Justice is another topic

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7B. April Programming. Carol discussed possible themes for our Library April 2021 program timed to Earth Day. She suggested tying in the History of Trail Use in Kent to the Library's Centennial but will contact Laurie Doss about reviving the Bat program presentation which was dropped due to the Covid Lock-down in 2020. The hour being late and the future of the Pandemic still very uncertain, we decided to postpone discussion until our February Meeting.

8. Correspondence
None

9. Adjourn.
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8.50 pm by Connie.

Respectfully submitted
By Wendy Murphy
January 31, 2021

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Register Now for 2021 Recycling Conference

This year's CT Recycling Conference will focus on the 2021 session of the CT General Assembly and the materials management challenges facing the state of Connecticut. While we are disappointed that we cannot hold this year's event in person, we are anything but disappointed with the content. This year's event will include the following:

Noon: Overview and Recommendations of the Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management (CCSMM)

DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes

1 - 3 pm: Lightning Round Panels

Unit Based Pricing: Kristen Brown, Waste Zero & Steve Changaris, NWRA

EPR: Jennifer Heaton-Jones, Product Stewardship Council & Kelsey Wentley, CT River Council

Bottle Bill: Lou Rosado Burch, Citizens Campaign for the Environment & Bree Dietly, American Beverage Association

Organics/Food Diversion: Brian Paganini, Quantum Biopower & Dan Martens, Novamont

Polystyrene Ban: Kelsey Lamp, Environment CT & TBD

3 pm: Legislative Leaders Panel:

Senator Christine Cohen, Co-Chair, Environment Committee

Representative Dorinda Borer, Co-Chair, Environment Committee*

Senator Craig Miner, Ranking Member, Environment Committee*

Representative Stephen Harding, Ranking Member, Environment Committee*

CT Recyclers Coalition | www.ctrecyclers.com

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