TOWN OF KENT
Conservation Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 12, 2022 @ 7:00pm

Members in attendance:
Mike Benjamin
Melissa Cherniske
Carol Franken
Connie Manes
Wendy Murphy
Jos Spelbos

Members of the public in attendance: Lisa Wolak

Call to order
A quorum being present, Commission Chair Connie Manes called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

1. The agenda was amended to have as it’s first item the possible amendment and acceptance of the agenda. No amendments were made and upon a motion by Liddy Baker and seconded by Melissa Cherniske, the Commission voted unanimously to accept the agenda.

2. Accept/amend minutes of Special Meeting September 21, 2022. Upon a motion by Melissa seconded by Wendy Murphy, the minutes of the September 21, 2022 Special Meeting were unanimously approved.

3. Treasurer’s Report. Treasurer Liddy Baker delivered the Treasurer’s Report. There have been expenses of $184 since the last meeting, including payment of KCC’s regular dues for membership in CACIWC, CLCC, and Rivers Alliance, as well as expenses for a book purchased for the conservation collection at the Kent Memorial Library. The Kuga Fund balance has been augmented by the sale of the new revision to the Kent Trails book. Pending confirmation from Barbara Herbst there is a balance of about $10,800.

4. Public comment. No members of the public were present at the calling of this agenda item.

5. Old Business
   A. Climate Programs
      Green Energy Initiative Oct 15 3:00-5:00pm at Kent School auditorium. Registration numbers are good and all is set for the program this coming Saturday. The Commission will discuss the program and the Kent Baseline Energy Report at the November meeting.

      On Oct 14 KCS students will participate in a separate program about how they can get involved in climate conservation activities. The program will use a book by local author Carrie Firestone about Climate Clubs. KCS purchased several copies of the book for upper grades and KCC purchased the book for the Kent Memorial Library.

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.

41 Kent Green Boulevard, P.O. Box 678 Kent, CT 06757-0678
Phone: (860) 927-4627 Fax: (860) 927-1313 www.townofkentct.org
Connie shared that a representative working on behalf of Eversource emailed her about grants to support the purchase and installation of EV charging stations. Connie will forward the email to the Commissioners and copy Jean Speck.

Common Ground with Jane Whitney Oct 30 at Wamogo High School. This PBS program entitled “Can this Planet (Still) Be Saved?” will be filmed in front of a live general admission audience. Connie will share the flyer for the program as well as a code to use for complimentary admission.

Douglas Brinkley book talk, Saturday, November 19th at 3pm in the Kent School auditorium. Mr. Brinkley’s new book is entitled Silent Spring Revolution. KCC, KML, and several land trusts will co-sponsor.

B. Kent POCD. The public hearing is scheduled for November 10th.

C. Kent Trails: A Hiker’s Guide. The revised guide has been published and 53 copies remain of the initial printing.

D. Native Plants & Pollinator Pathways. The Commission discussed pollinator-friendly fall strategies including “Leave the Leaves”. The Commission would like to meet with other Town representatives to hear about their experiences implementing the Pollinator Pathway Resolution passed earlier this year. Following discussion the Commission felt that the best format in which to do this would be to invite the Board of Selectmen, Rick Osborne, Jared Kuczenski, and members of Kent’s business community to the Commission’s January meeting. Connie will meanwhile send a copy of the Resolution to the Commissioners. Melissa has been posting information and reminders about Leave the Leaves and other fall cleanup (or no-cleanup) tips on social media accounts.

E. Sustainable CT. No update.

F. Sustainable Materials Management in Kent. No update.

G. Ordinate Enabling Kent to purchase Open Space and other land. We will place this topic at the top of our agenda for discussion in November.

H. Follow the Forest Community Science: Linkage Assessments and Roadside Wildlife observations. Paul Singer from HVA was unable to attend our meeting due to a conflict presenting to the Shelton Land Trust. Connie showed the Commissioners the maps and explained the reason and challenge of assessing potential wildlife linkages identified in Kent.

6. New Business. Upon a motion by Melissa seconded by Carol, the Commission unanimously voted to ask the Selectboard to reappoint Liddy Baker as a Commissioner and Mike Benjamin as an Alternate. The Commission enthusiastically welcomed the continued service of Liddy and Mike.

7. Correspondence. The CACIWC Annual Conference will be held on Saturday, October 29th. Jos will attend.

8. Adjourn. There being no further business before the Commission, and upon a motion by Melissa seconded by Liddy, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday November 9th @ 6:30pm
Respectfully submitted by: Connie Manes, Chair

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.