TOWN OF KENT
Conservation Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 21, 2022 @ 7:00pm

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

Members of the public in attendance: Lynn Worthington

Call to order
A quorum being present, Commission Chair Connie Manes called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

1. Accept/amend minutes of Regular Meeting July 13, 2022. Upon a motion by Melissa Cherniske seconded by Mike Benjamin, the minutes of the July 13, 2022 Regular Meeting were unanimously approved.


3. Public comment. No members of the public were present at the calling of this agenda item. Lynn Worthington joined the meeting at 7:15pm.

4. Old Business
   A. Climate Programs
     Green Energy Initiative Oct 15 3:00-5:00pm. Wendy Murphy discussed the program planned at the Kent School on Saturday October 15th. PACE has prepared a Baseline Energy Analysis for the Town of Kent the table of contents to which was distributed to the Commissioner in advance of the meeting. Wendy will email the entire report to the Commission. Melissa has posted the flyer for the program on KCC’s Facebook page and website page. She will arrange for the report to be posted on KCC’s webpage. On Oct 14 KCS students will participate in a separate program about how they can get involved in climate conservation activities. It is likely that one of the outgrowths of the work done to plan the Oct 15 program will be that the Town of Kent will create its own Energy Taskforce.

     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. The

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press kit will be published shortly and Connie will share it with Commissioners. We are invited to share with our networks.

Douglas Brinkley at Kent Memorial Library. Tentative date November 20th. Mr. Brinkley’s new book is entitled Silent Spring Revolution. KCC, KML, and the Kent Land Trust will co-sponsor.

B. Kent POCD. Since KCC’s July meeting the POCD subcommittee has had several meetings including one with the full P&Z at which the P&Z accepted the final draft. The POCD now goes to a public hearing which has been set for November 10th. Jos and Melissa reported that the POCD subcommittee made edits consistent with our comments. The Commission believes that the POCD revision is well done and supports its adoption.

C. Kent Trails: A Hiker’s Guide. The revised guide has been published and is available for purchase.

D. Native Plants & Pollinator Pathways. No update.

E. Sustainable CT. Wendy has been invited to the next meeting of the Sustainable CT committee. Sustainable CT is mentioned numerous times within the POCD.

F. Sustainable Materials Management in Kent. Connie reported that WRAP collection is once again underway at Kent Center School.

5. New Business
   A. Legislative change providing options for “Rails with Trails” and “Rails and Trails”. HB 5255 passed in the 2022 legislative session providing the option for the Governor to indemnify rail companies which allow for bike and walking paths to be place alongside active rails. This may help reboot conversations about how to safely route the HouBike trail between Kent and Cornwall.

   B. Follow the Forest Community Science: Linkage Assessments and Roadside Wildlife observations. Paul Singer from Housatonic Valley Association is seeking volunteers to log data of their observances about wildlife movement across roads and other barriers. Paul has been working to engage middle and high-schoolers but needs additional people to complete assessment of all possible linkages within their towns. The Commission agreed to invite Paul to provide a short presentation at its meeting in October.

6. Correspondence. Connie forwarded by email prior to the meeting correspondence from Stan Greenbaum on which the Commission was cc’d. The correspondence does not ask the Commission to take any action and as the matter does not involve the Commission there was no need for discussion.

7. Adjourn. There being no further business before the Commission, and upon a motion by Melissa seconded by Wendy, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday October 12th @ 7:00pm
Respectfully submitted by: Connie Manes, Chair

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