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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
February 19, 2020

Present: Commissioners Connie Manes (chair, left after item 6A), Liddy Baker, Melissa Chemiske, Carol Franken and Wendy Murphy; advisor Jos Spelbos. Absent: Donna Sommers. Guest: Jean Speck (first selectwoman, present from item 6A onward).

Prior to the meeting the following items were distributed via email:
A. Draft Agenda by Carol
B. Draft Minutes of Meeting of January 15, 2020 by Jos
C. Approved Minutes of the December 11 meeting
D. Link to CT Mirror article about Connecticut's recycling problems

1. Call to order
   Connie called the meeting to order at 6.35 pm.

2. Accept/amend agenda
   The agenda was accepted upon a motion by Melissa, seconded by Connie, but items 6C, D and E were moved before 6A.

3. Review, amend, approve meeting Minutes
   The draft January Minutes were approved after a motion by Melissa and a second by Connie.

4. Treasurer's report
   Liddy reported a payment of $75 for CACIWC conference attendance. She handed our budget proposal in to the town treasurer. Liddy noted that the Chamber of Commerce is again willing to pay for supplies for the street cleanup in April. Connie noted that HRRA is also offering materials.

5. Public comment
   None

6. Old Business

6C. Update on WCCAA
   Wendy reported that the Dover powerplant is expected to start up in late March. The WCCAA now has the services of a UConn professor and her PhD students to monitor and interpret the air quality data. The promised state financial aid is still not properly allocated.

6D. Update on proposed cell tower
   Several commission members viewed the balloon float and crane test at the two sites on Bald Hill and Richards Road. The second site was visible from more locations. Neither was visible from public trails. No new report from the applicant was available yet as of our meeting date. (An application was filed with

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the Connecticut Siting Council on February 28 under docket 488, which includes the visibility studies. The town was notified on March 2).

6E. **Update on Kent trails guide**
No news

6A. **Sustainable CT – Community Match Fund**
Sustainable CT was created by municipal leaders and committed residents to steer towns towards sustainability in a number of areas, such as thriving local economies, livable and inclusive communities, and well-steward natural resources. Connie noted that now 102 of 169 communities in Connecticut have registered with Sustainable CT, including Cornwall, New Milford, Washington and Warren; 47 communities are certified. The Community Match Fund is a recent addition, and could be tapped e.g. to install solar panels on town buildings. Certification requires teamwork between town organizations, a contact person, active participants, and a mission statement. The first selectwoman will try to put a committee together and look into registering Kent.

6B. **Reduce, Reuse, Recycling initiatives**
The commission supports expanding the state bottle bill to put a refund on more types of plastic and glass bottles and raise the refund amount.
Jean will contact Jennifer Heaton of HRRA to help develop ways to improve signage at the transfer station to reduce contamination of recycled items and of plastic wrap and bags. She is in favor of a pay as you throw system, because it has cut down on the amount of trash in towns that have implemented it, although many residents may at first oppose such change.
They have recently discussed introducing food waste composting in Kent, starting with a small pilot program. The food waste would be collected in pails, composted by New Milford Farms, and after curing provided for free to the participants. Commissioners are in favor of this.
Jean encouraged the KCC to submit group testimony on proposed state legislation that interests us.

6F. **Review April events**
Donna will help Liddy with the organization of the town-wide road cleanup. The Boy Scouts will do their bit on April 10, and South Kent School students will collect litter on April 18. Liddy will ask the state DOT to take care of the state roads again.
The Earth Day library program for young kids, organized by Carol, is now scheduled for Thursday April 16 at 10.30. Laurie Doss and Aiden Cherniske will give a presentation about bats.
The yearly Arbor Day tree planting ceremony and recycling poster contest at KCS will take place Friday April 24 at 2pm. Jos and teacher Ane Starr will select a tree and location, and they will guide KCS students in digging the planting hole on Thursday the 23rd after school.

7. **New Business**
None

8. **Correspondence**
None

9. **Adjourn**
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8.27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jos Spelbos
March 8, 2020

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