

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
June 12, 2019

Present: Commissioners Connie Manes (chair), Carol Franken, Rick Levy, Wendy Murphy and Donna Sommers; advisor Jos Spelbos; guest Peter Jensen. Absent: Liddy Baker and Melissa Cherniske.

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

- A. Draft Agenda by Carol
- B. Draft Minutes of Meeting of May 8, 2019 by Wendy
- C. Approved Minutes of the April 10 meeting by Jos
- D. Photos of the recycling sign and of the trails book sign
- E. Updates on the fate of environmental bills before the state legislature
- F. Treasurer's report for June and end of fiscal year by Liddy
- G. Kent Single-use plastic merchant survey by Peter
- H. Revised soil-based zoning map for the Rural District

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KENT TOWN CLERK

2019 SEP -5 P 12:14

TOWN CLERK

BY



1. Call to order
Connie called the meeting to order at 7.07 pm.
2. Accept/amend agenda
Rick asked to add item 7B. Upon a motion by Carol, seconded by Wendy, the amended agenda was unanimously accepted, but it was decided to discuss item 6F between 5 and 6A.
3. Review, amend, approve meeting Minutes
Connie has some amendments to the draft Minutes. Upon a motion by Carol, seconded by Connie, Connie was asked to make those changes.
4. Treasurer's report
The treasurer's report showed recent expenses of \$108.28 for the Earthday library event, \$52.91 for the shopping notepads with reusable bag reminders, \$240 for recycling signs, \$1185 for the trail book printing, and \$186.49 for the Arbor Day tree. This leaves a year-end balance of \$16.72. A thank-you to Liddy for balancing the budget.
5. Public comment
Anthony DiPentima, Melissa Holcom and Bonnie Bevans were present to discuss the proposed celltower at Bald Hill Road, see 6F.

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6. Old Business

6F. Proposed celltower at Bald Hill Road

The 3 residents mentioned under #5 live near the proposed celltower site or have sold property there, and wanted to express their concerns about the proposal. They asked the commission to intervene. Connie noted that her survey of existing maps and other information about the site didn't show any important ecological values or environmental concerns, and the Conservation Commission sees no other role for itself in this case. She explained that the Connecticut Siting Council makes the decision, and doesn't have to take into account local zoning or conservation concerns. But she stated that organized opposition from local residents can sometimes sway the council or the celltower company. The residents left the meeting after this discussion.

6A. Reduce, Reuse, Recycling initiatives

6A1. Merchant participation survey

Peter had emailed his survey results and a summarizing statement and was looking for advice on the next steps. The commission thanked him for his efforts, and proposed that Connie use his summary and Maddy Stevens' earlier letter to draft a press release, and to raise further awareness via Facebook postings and possibly awarding successful merchants.

6A2. Street signs

Two explanatory recycling signs have been placed on Main Street near recycling containers.

6A3. Shopping pads

We have been given 200 shopping pads by HRRA with the reminder "Don't forget reusable bags", and have added refrigerator magnets to a number of them. Carol proposed setting up a table in front of IGA and handing them out to shoppers, while informing shoppers that starting July 1 stores have to charge for plastic bags, and reusable bags are the best option. Other commissioners will join in. Carol will contact owner Gary Davis and set a date.

6A4. CT legislative bills

Connie reported on the plastic bag bill which was adopted, and the bottle bill, plastic straw bill and polystyrene bills which failed in the legislature. The State Water Plan did finally pass.

6B. Kent Trails Guide

Wendy reported that the revised edition of the guide has been printed. They are advertised with a sign at the library's outdoor book sale, and will be available for \$18.

6C. WCCAA update

The bill providing for DEEP support of the air monitoring effort for the powerplant in Dover has been passed in the state legislature, thanks to support from local representatives.

6D. Use of road salt in Kent

Connie will try to arrange a meeting with Lynn Werner and Rick Osborne. Jos noted that Sherman has problems with elevated salt levels in the drinking water of their public buildings, and is looking for ways to limit environmental impacts of road salt.

6E. Fracking waste ordinance

A statewide fracking waste ban has just been adopted by the state legislature, eliminating the need for us to pursue a local ban.

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- 6G. NCRI
Jos and HVA have finished revising the zoning map for the Rural District, which is based on the new soil classification, and which will be part of our upcoming resource inventory.
- 6H. Rain gardens
Wendy wants to promote rain gardens.
- 6I. KCC Mission statement
Tabled
- 7. New Business
 - 7A. KCC Facebook page
Carol would like to see our Facebook page revitalized.
 - 7B. Veterans Memorial tree
Rick reported that the tree sponsored by KCC and planted by Kent Greenhouse near the veterans memorial last Fall has died. He will contact the greenhouse about a replacement. Jos noted that one of the redbud trees near the Welcome Center has died; this one probably for lack of watering.
- 8. Correspondence
None
- 9. Adjourn.
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8.10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jos Spelbos
July 6, 2019

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