

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
July 10, 2019

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

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

- A. Draft Agenda by Carol
- B. Draft Minutes of Meeting of June 12, 2019
- C. Approved Minutes of the May 8 meeting
- D. Draft KCC Mission Statement by Carol, July 9

1. Call to order

Connie called the meeting to order at 7.10 pm.

2. Accept/amend agenda

The agenda was accepted after a motion by Rick, seconded by Wendy.

3. Review, amend, approve meeting Minutes

The June Minutes were approved as written, after a motion by Rick and a second by Wendy.

4. Treasurer's report

Tabled.

5. Public comment

None

6. Old Business

6A. Reduce, Reuse, Recycling initiatives

6A1. Plastic bag tax

The CT state legislature recently, in an amendment to the state budget, introduced a 10 cent fee on single-use plastic shopping bags for a 2 year period, after which period those bags will be banned in the state, with some exceptions. Towns will be allowed to have their own stricter ordinances, but the KCC didn't consider such ordinance needed in Kent given this new statewide policy. The IGA and other supermarkets in the area plan to phase out plastic shopping bags this summer already.

6A2. Merchant participation survey

Peter and Maddy added some more information to the town-wide single-use plastic survey summary. Connie will draft a press release based on their survey data. The new bag law may be explained too in this

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release. Peter would like to present this press release to the Chamber of Commerce. We hope to also draw attention to it in the online Selectman's Newsletter.

6A3. Shopping pads

Five members of the KCC handed out shopping pads in front of the IGA on July 6 to shoppers, and educated people about reusable shopping bags and the problems plastic ones create. A second such event may be held in August.

6A4. Reusable bag give-away

Rick proposed that the KCC purchases reusable shopping bags and give them for free to shoppers. Connie and Wendy preferred not to get more bags into circulation, but to get people accustomed to bringing their own bags.

6B. Kent Trails Guide

At Carol's request Wendy will look into selling the new guides at town hall and providing them to realtors to hand out to new residents.

6C. Veterans Memorial tree

Rick noted that Andy Ociff will check with Kent Greenhouse about replacing the deceased tree.

6D. WCCAA update

Carol and Wendy reported that all 7 periphery air monitors are in place now. DEEP has been very cooperative, and the state has provided some money for hiring a consultant.

6E. Use of road salt in Kent Tabled

6F. Cell tower Bald Hill Road Tabled

6G. Rain gardens Tabled

6H. KCC Mission statement

Carol drafted a mission statement that can be used to explain what the commission does in a few sentences. After some changes were made the commission approved the statement. The final text is:

The Kent Conservation Commission is a group of volunteers appointed by the First Selectman. The Commission is focused on protecting our natural beauty and resources and keeping Kent a healthy place to live, work and visit. They provide leadership by educating and engaging the public and other town agencies about conservation and environmental concerns.

7. New Business None

8. Correspondence

Connie reported that the town has stopped using Roundup herbicide on its properties.

9. Adjourn.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8.55 pm. No meeting in August.

Respectfully submitted,
Jos Spelbos

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August 31, 2019

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