

Killingworth Conservation Commission
Town Office Building
323 Route 81, Killingworth CT 06419

KCC Meeting Minutes Thursday, May 12, 2022, 7:00pm

This was a virtual meeting. Connection information:

K. Conservation Commission
Thursday, May 12, 2022 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (EST)

1. Call to order: 7:05pm

2. Attendance: Maureen Farrell Charney, Jim Fullmer, Guy Vecchitto, Stephanie Warren, Alec Martin, and Roslyn Reeps

Absent: Marilyn Campbell

3. Visitors: Nancy Gorski

KW First Selectman Nancy Gorski gave an update on the PFAS contamination in town. A number of properties have been tested for PFAS, including the town campus, several commercial properties and a number of private homes. Fire-fighting foam (from training and extinguishing a fire at Beechwood) is the likely source of PFAS in town. The town hall campus also has high sodium levels in its water. Remediation will be needed at the town hall campus, and all options are costly: 1) run city water from Clinton 2) place filtration systems in wells 3) Dig new well on KES property. Grants from DEEP are available for homeowners, but not the town.

Alec Martin suggested that the town hold a health fair/information session so that residents can learn more about the problem and about testing. Stephanie Warren asked if local representatives (Goupil, Cohen) are engaged and Gorski confirmed that they are.

4. Approval of minutes for April 14, 2022: Guy Vecchitto made a motion to approve minutes. Farrell Charney seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved.

5. Communications/Correspondence

General Correspondence: KCC received a postcard from the CT Land Conservation Council – the organization is hosting a series of virtual sessions on a variety of topics, including conservation education (May 18), urban and rural climate solutions (May 19). Warren will email members with more information and the website link (<http://www.ctconservation.org/conference>).

Organization Information:

- CACIWC – nothing currently planned, no events. Annual dues coming up in June – will be paid out of KCC budget.
- CFPA- CT Forest and Parks – website lists events listed through September. Ex., Summer Solstice hike and bonfire
- Rockfall – “Wasted” series coming up

Legislative/Conservation news from Connecticut League of Conservation Voters: Farrell Charney reported that a number of laws supported by CLCV were recently passed, including legislation to expand electric vehicles; the establishment of an office to address aquatic invasive species; and legislation on climate-smart agricultural practices.

6. Reports of Officers, Committees, and Organizations

- Parmelee Farm: Jim Fullmer reported on entertainment opportunities planned for the summer, including concerts and vehicle cruises on 2nd Sunday of the month.
- Historical Society: Fullmer gave an update on fundraising for the barn building.
- LCVRPC: Alec Martin, Stephanie Warren: Martin said there is no update from the regional planning committee
- KCC Education Projects: Warren reported that she and Marilyn Campbell are working with KW Library to organize a summertime kids contest, which will start in July and go through August. Topic is vernal pools.
- KLCT: Campbell was absent, but forwarded information on the land trust to Warren, who reported that there will be a presentation about the cranberry bog by Keith Bishop on May 19, 7pm, at the KW Firehouse.

7. Old Business

Did You Know article series: Warren reported that the May issue of Krier included Guy Vecchitto’s article on rabbits. The June issue will include Farrell Charney’s article on pollinator pathways and the July issue will feature Campbell’s article on protecting wildlife. Fullmer, Campbell, Vecchitto will collaborate on an article about textile recycling for the August issue.

Textile recycling: some member discussion on the feasibility of textile recycling in town. Campbell is doing research on the topic. Textiles for possible recycling include clothing, tents, belts and other textiles. There are some existing clothing collection bins in town and a large Goodwill Collection Center in Clinton that accepts textiles.

SustainableCT: The resolution for KW to join SustainableCT was voted through by the Board of Selectmen. A small team will be tasked with the details, including Farrell Charney, Warren and someone from the KW Housing Committee. Warren mentioned that there are many benefits to membership and it does not cost the town any money to belong.

8. New Business

Warren spoke with KW Garden Club – they are interested in working with KCC on invasive species and invasive insects; will also reach out to Parmelee Farm Community Garden members

Discussion on possibility of returning to in-person meetings versus continuing to meet remotely. All agreed to continue meeting on GoToMeeting for the time being due to the increasing COVID numbers.

Martin mentioned that the topic of marijuana cultivation and sales had come up in the RiverCOG, but has not yet been brought before the P&Z.

8. Adjournment: 8:17pm

Next KCC Meeting: Thursday, June 9, 2022, at 7:00 pm. This will be another virtual meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by: Maureen Farrell Charney, KCC Member