



Town of Kent Conservation Advisory Committee

Minutes from Monthly CAC Meeting

April 20th, 2022 at 7 PM

Attendees: William Volckmann - Chair, Anne B. Campbell, Pamela Wadler, Bill Buck, Roxanne Roth. Also Ted Warren from Hudson Highlands Land Trust.

Chair's Report

Update from CAC chair on upcoming events and news affecting conservation activities

KCAC Projects

Review projects the KCAC is currently working on

Climate Smart Communities (CSC)

The Climate Smart Communities committee is a working group to assist the town in achieving Climate Smart goals.

The CSC meeting is held monthly on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

- Kent is confirmed for a \$5K grant from NYSEDA and is currently working on getting the grant into town coffers.
- There will be a kickoff meeting scheduled for sometime in May. Two Vassar alums will be coming to speak to existing Vassar students working on the greenhouse gas inventory project.

Kent Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)

- Bill Volckmann had discussion with town planning board. A followup meeting is scheduled for May 2nd.
- Bill Volckmann is working to get documents from the Kent historical society to supplement the NRI info.
- Town environmental consultant is on the NRI committee.
- Next step is to finalize the outline of NRI. It should follow the plan already laid out by Hudsonia.

Biodiversity Inventory Project

- Entomologist is staying at Bill Buck's home for two days to count and record insect populations in the area with him.

Other CAC projects

- Highlands Trail / North Putnam Greenway trail project with NY/NJ Trail Conference
 - Currently there is no activity scheduled during the winter months, looking at doing additional trail work with NY/NJ Trail Conference starting in March/April

Discussion and review of current Land Development Projects in town

- Discussion regarding proposed changes to the town code to accommodate soil removal, excavation and mining in connection with proposed land development projects in the Town of Kent and the response to the town board from the CAC and Planning Board.
 - The current moratorium on soil removal and excavation has been extended another six months as of February, 2022.
 - Planning board had an additional meeting on this on March 28th. Planning board did not agree on revised plan made by consultants.
 - An additional meeting occurred and mining document was updated by consultants. Mining document will be reviewed again at the next board meeting.
 - Excavation permits are currently required if disturbing 2 acres of land or more. Currently the planning board wants to retain control of this permitting process.
 - Currently no permit is required for removal of 750 cubic yards of fill in the proposed planning document RE mining.
- Kent Manor project, a 400 room development for Nichols Street between Horsepound Road and 52 was discussed.

Town of Kent CAC hikes and events

The Town of Kent CAC has a wonderful inventory of trails and open spaces available for all types of activities, hiking, bicycling, fishing, hunting, and different field sports activities, all here within the town. The CAC encourages everyone to get out and explore our wonderful outdoors. As part of our work, the CAC holds different outdoor events throughout the year to bring folks together for a fun activity combined with some history of the local town.

Planning for new events

- Discuss new events for 2022
 - Woodcock walk scheduled for April 23rd at 7:30PM at the Great Swamp Wildlife Management Area on Cornwall Hill Road in Patterson, NY.
 - Hawk Rock trail hike – confirmed for May 22nd 2022. Roxanne and Bill will be on this.

Kent Conservation Foundation Report

Receive a report from the Kent Conservation Foundation

Kent Conservation and Kent CAC are always building and maintaining a list of volunteers who are interested in working on the Nimham fire tower and related stewardship activities

Updates on Nimham Mountain fire tower stewardship

- KCF and CAC is still working on a plan to clear brush around the corbelled stone chamber on Nimham Mountain.

Other Items of Note

- Bart Catareno from the NY DEP was at the last planning board meeting getting approvals for forest management of parcel on Church Hill Road.
- DEP plans to remove blow downs and remove invasives to encourage diversity of species and age.
- Bart was invited to present at a future CAC meeting.

Meeting End

Final comments from anyone

- Anne to send info on Kent Manor project to all for review.
- Anne sending Roxanne log in info for Kent town webpage so that minutes can be updated.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, May 18th, 2022 at 7:00PM by WebEx video/telephone conference.

Contact

For further information about the CAC, including projects the CAC is working on or our meetings, please contact Bill Volckmann, CAC Chair at cac@townofkentny.gov or 914-671-2764.