



Town of Kent Conservation Advisory Committee

Minutes from Monthly CAC Meeting

May 18th, 2022 at 7 PM

Attendees: William Volckmann - Chair, Anne B. Campbell, Pamela Wadler, Bill Buck, Roxanne Roth.

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.

- A meeting was held with the grant committee on 5/18/22. They determined we could get a grant of up to 100K funding for CSC initiatives with a 10% contribution.
- Our existing NRI and sustainability plan play into this.
- The town's grant writing contractor is looking into this.

Kent Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)

- Bruce barber has provided a list of key development sensitive species for the Croton Highlands region.
 - Croton Highlands Biodiversity plan and recommendations were forwarded to all CAC members and contained many useful recommendations.
- Bill Buck will be taking note of the presence of any of these development sensitive species while doing his NRI inventorying.
- Bill has been observing crane fly populations in his NRI inventory work and will be bringing in a crane fly expert from Canada to help with further study in June.
- Bill has also spotted Selaginella moss while inventorying.

Fishkill Creek Watershed Alliance

- Small parts of Kent are in the Fishkill creek watershed.
- Beacon CAC contacted us about supplying a letter of support from communities in the watershed to secure a grant for community training.
- Bill is writing the letter and Ann will look into having the town supervisor sign it.
- CAC to do further research to see if we wish to be involved.

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.
 - Anne spoke to planning board and submitted (from consultants) an updated plan for changes to town code RE mining. No response yet.
- We have verified that DEC makes an exception for residential properties regarding permitting for removal of stone. No permit is needed for removal of stone currently on single family residential properties. Town is considering limiting this exception.
- Town board is reviewing its building violation penalty fees in general to ensure they are high enough.

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
 - Considering library trail hike for late summer/early fall. Roxanne to lead.

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

- CAC and boyscouts did work recently clearing away brush from the firetower area.

Other Items of Note

- North east foresters association links were provided in the agenda RE carbon management.
- Beaver management was discussed during the meeting.
 - Beaver have returned and have a healthy breeding population in our area.
 - Problem beavers cannot be transported once trapped, they must be dispatched onsite.

Meeting End

Final comments from anyone

- Roxanne and Ann still working on getting minutes uploaded to town website.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, June 15th, 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.