

**Kent Conservation Advisory Committee, Town of Kent,
Meeting Minutes, June 15, 2016**

Attendees: CAC members present: Anne Balant-Campbell, Bill Buck, Marty Collins, Dave Ehnebuske, Beth Herr, Bill Volckmann. CAC members absent: Phil Tolmach. Ex-officio recording secretary: Jean Ehnebuske. Town Board Liaison: Did not attend. Visitors: Jim Baker, George Baum.

Chairperson Beth Herr called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

1. Committee reports

Outreach Communication Committee

Kent CAC Facebook page

The Chair, who also serves as administrator of the CAC Facebook page, reported that a growing number of people are viewing the Facebook page and sharing posts with others. Especially popular for sharing was the link to the Kent Nature Almanac. She reported that a remarkable 71 individuals looked at the post about the red eft.

Mount Nimham Facebook page

No report.

Kent Nature Almanac

Dave Ehnebuske, who edits, posts, distributes and tracks the Kent Nature Almanac, reported that there are currently 149 subscribers to the almanac. Given past patterns, Dave anticipates another two or three new people will request to subscribe this coming month. In addition, Dave commented that there are 178 people who subscribe to the hikes list, and 57 who subscribe to the agendas and minutes list.

Town of Kent website

Dave reported that he had talked to the website administrators for both Putnam County and the Town of Kent. He was able to get the erroneous link for the town that appears on Putnam County's site changed in just one phone call. He found out from Rich, the town's website administrator, that the town is currently debating buying up other domains with names similar to townofkentny.gov.

Mount Nimham Fire Tower Committee

Engineer's report

Bill Volckmann stated that he and Dave met with Mark Day, the engineer who inspected the fire tower. From Mark's comprehensive report, Bill and Dave learned that the fire tower is structurally sound and won't need to be scraped and completely repainted. Mark's professional advice was that the CAC create a schedule for carrying out maintenance on a regular basis. Regarding painting, Mark suggested using POR-15 in places we encounter chronic rust and the same paint the CAC is currently using for the rest.

Landings replacement

Beth said this would be discussed at the Kent Conservation Foundation board meeting.

Seal CCC cornerstone

George Baum painted the cornerstone with some good sealant Beth got at Wallauer's. He also coated the base for the bracing under the first landing.

New and replacement nameplates

Dave said he would check the current costs with the business that supplied that original name plates. At that time, the cost was \$20/nameplate. There are six damaged or missing plates that need to be replaced. Some discussion ensued about auctioning off plates for the few remaining places they could be installed. They could be placed on landings and railings.

2. Kent Conservation Committee

No report.

3. Chair's report

Correspondence

Beth mentioned that there are several interesting programs hosted by the [Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies](#) that may be of interest to CAC members.

“Hudsonia” grants

She mentioned she plans to look into “Hudsonia” grants offered by the Hudson River Estuary Program that might help fund our nature inventory.

NYSDEC WAVE training

Beth is calling for suggestions regarding which streams in Kent she might sample from early July to the end of September to provide the state information about water quality. She will be emailing CAC members for their input.

Putnam County Health, Social, Education and Environmental Committee

George and Beth attended this meeting to keep informed about the direction the county is headed regarding the use and disposal of plastic bags. CAC members discussed gathering signatures from Town of Kent residents on a petition to be presented to the county. George volunteered to write the text of the petition. An accompanying fact sheet would also be necessary.

Eagle Scout meeting with NYCDEP

Beth, Dave, and Lori DiLorenzo from the NYCDEP met with Ian Troge to discuss his proposed project on the trail to Hawk Rock. He wants to build and install a boardwalk approximately four-foot wide by sixty-foot long. It would have railings and be installed over the wet terrain in the area where the marsh marigolds bloom.

Eagle Scout ceremony for Patrick LaFontaine

Beth extended the invitation to the ceremony honoring Patrick to any CAC member who wants to attend. The ceremony will be held at Drew Methodist Church on Saturday, June 25, at 10 AM. Light refreshments will follow.

Presentation to Kent Town Board

Beth and Dave will be giving a short presentation about the roles and activities of the CAC and the KCF (Kent Conservation Foundation) to the supervisor and town board members. Originally scheduled for Tuesday, June 21, the meeting was postponed for a week to Tuesday, June 27.

4. Hikes and programs

Hawk Rock Hike, Sunday, May 22

The Chair reported that it was a lovely day that brought out a number of hikers who enjoyed the sights along the path, lunch at Hawk Rock and the company of one another.

Star Party at Kent Town Center

Beth told CAC members that although plans are still in flux, it might work well to schedule the Star Party for Saturday, August 13, with a rain date of Saturday, September 10. Kent Public Library Director Carol Donick said she would be happy to help make arrangements for the program.

5. ELLA (Environmental Leaders Learning Alliance)

No report.

6. Clearpool Model Forest

No report.

7. Other

Putnam County 4-H Fair, July 29-31

The Chair said she was told by one of the organizers it is very doubtful there are any tables left for the CAC to set up and sit with a display. If there is a table available, it would be on Sunday, July 31. If

things work out, Bill Buck said he could volunteer for a time slot.

Media list

Marty Collins reported that the only media contacts list she has is from 2013, and that she would try to update that list when she can.

Suggestions for projects

Dave asked CAC members to think about what projects they would like to have the KCF fund next. Some ideas that surfaced right away are below. Dave asked CAC members to bring additional ideas to the next CAC meeting.

- Signs in close proximity to the fire tower to explain its history, its renovation ten years ago, its value to the community, and most of all, how it belongs to everyone and thereby needs our ongoing respect and care as one of the natural treasures in our town. The text could also be made available to visitors with mobile devices through a QR code.
- A nature trail behind the library and town center.
- A print and online booklet listing, describing and rating (“easy,” “moderate,” “challenging,” etc.) the hiking trails in the Town of Kent.
- Historical markers for sites that qualify.
- Publicity at the SE train station.
- One or two benches along the path to/from Hawk Rock.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Kent CAC will be at 7 PM on Wednesday, July 20, 2016, at the Kent Town Hall. As always, all meetings of the Kent CAC are open to the public.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Ehnebuske,
ex-officio recording secretary