

Public Meeting
Kent Conservation Advisory Committee
July 18, 2018, 7 PM
Kent Town Hall

Minutes

Attendees: Anne Balant-Campbell, Bill Buck, Dave Ehnebuske, Beth Herr, Phil Tolmach, Bill Volckmann

1. Amended minutes from June 20, 2018 were approved.
2. Outreach Committee reports
 - Kent Nature Almanac is late this month, but library is ready to receive it and will put it on exhibit and keep previous issues underneath.
 - The website had visits from 126 distinct users in the period June 20 - July 17 which is down slightly from the month before. The hikes pages -- particularly the one to Hawk Rock -- continue to be the most popular ones.
 - Facebook pages:
 - Recent postings on the KCAC Facebook page have had between 39 and 67 views.
 - Mount Nimham Fire Tower page donations on Kent Conservation Foundation (KCF) page is still being worked out (see next item).
3. Hawk Rock/Mead Farm Property
 - The announcement of the upcoming storm cleanup on the Mead Farm/Hawk Rock trail, to be held July 21 at 10 AM, was viewed by 58 people on facebook, but so far there have been no calls from potential helpers. White Pond area also suffered a lot of damage in this storm.
4. Kent Conservation Foundation and Fire Tower Committee report
 - The KCF was asked to provide cost data related to the recent graffiti incident. This information was sent via letter to Kristin Jones, the Victim's Advocate in the Putnam County DA's office.
 - Donation button on Hawk Rock/ KCF page: The button had been created on the facebook page, but KCF must register on facebook as a 501C3 and enter the bank account information. This has to be updated by the administrator for the KCF facebook page. Dave will complete the registration process for direct deposits.
 - The KCF has reworked Fundraising PowerPoint presentation and has been reaching out to possible funding sources
 - NYSDEC Grant: The decision on the grant funding for painting the fire tower for which Matt Paul of DEC had applied is still pending.

5. Hikes and programs

- Night of Fireflies at Town Center on June 23 was a delightful event. Three or four families attended. It should be run later next year to get more fireflies. Kids also discovered other insects in the area by the retention pond
- Butterfly Ramble on July 7 drew few people and very few butterflies. Numbers of butterflies, both the number of different species and the quantities of those species as seen the day of the count, appear to be plummeting. The most abundant numbers were in the Dean Pond Unit meadow on Horsepond Road
- Mount Nimham Hike: Sunday, October 14, 1 PM

5. Chair's report

- The next Kent Lakes Committee meeting will be July 28 at 8:45 am. Beth will cover and will offer to take minutes. At the June meeting, there was a lot of discussion the use of peroxide and the effectiveness of adding alum, a fixative. This is being used in other areas and it seems to work as a preventive. There is speculation that it prevents the release of some chemical or derails some other process that is unrelated to phosphates from homes.
- Kent Beautification Committee: A first meeting with the new committee chair Erica Nitz was held on *(include date)*. Bill Heustis, who is acting as a liaison with the Town Board attended. The discussion focused on litter, lakes, clean up of Rte. 52 corridor, replacing trees, and watering their current projects. Next year's Kent cleanup was also discussed.
- The Madden Outdoor Education property is being closed.
- The Putnam County Land Trust has sent a letter to Town of Kent letter to Highway Superintendent Othmer about road salt. The letter was along the same lines as the one sent to the Superintendent by the KCAC a few months ago, following his discussion about this issue at the KCAC meeting of February 21, 2018.
- The next Model Forest meeting at Clearpool will be Monday, July 23, 6 PM
- Cornell Coop Extension, 4-H Fair requests volunteers and donations for county living auction.

6. Other:

- Beth met the new forest ranger / enforcement officer for NYS DEC, Lincoln Hanno, at White Pond.
- The KCAC will not be participating in the WAVE sampling program this year.
- Photos from the nature almanac will be displayed in the large conference room at the Town Hall with information about the photographers. All other photos from the competition will be returned to their owners.
- We need to advertise for new member. Town of Kent Supervisor Maureen Fleming has to do this, but we might be able to send in a press release.

7. Next meeting Weds, Sept. 19, 2018 7:00 PM at Kent Town Hall.