

Public Meeting
Kent Conservation Advisory Committee
January 16th 2019, 7:00 PM
Minutes

Members present: Anne Balant-Campbell, Bill Buck, Beth Herr, Phil Tolmach
Guest: Chris Ruthven, Kent Town Board

The minutes of Nov. 28th, 2018 were approved.

1. Outreach Committee

- Kent Nature Almanac: Beth has compiled all of the submissions for October, November, and December, 2018 for what will likely be the final issue of the almanac. The KCAC will look into other options for the almanac, perhaps via entries on the Facebook page.
- Kentcac.info is on hold pending transfer of web access to current members of the KCAC.
- The KentCAC Facebook page has 229 followers at present, even more than we have on the almanac listserve. Recent facebook postings highlighted evidence of the presence of Emerald Ash Borer in Putnam Valley and on N. Horsepound Rd. in Kent. The most recent DEC newsletter indicates that they wish to be informed about Ash Borer damage so we should let them know.
- Approved minutes are to be forwarded to Lana Capelli Town Clerk

2. Kent Conservation Foundation report

Beth wrote to the County Commissioner of Emergency services about keys and vandalism but has not yet received an answer. Apparently the lock had not been changed, so she must not have the correct key. Per Chris Ruthven, his department manages this and he can provide additional keys. He and his staff from the County Parks department go up to Mt. Nimham periodically.

The latest Fire tower Lookout Association newsletter (<https://www.firelookout.org/index.html>) has some interesting articles. Some towers are museum quality. Lori Rankin has one that has a cabin in good condition, and the house at the base, but there nevertheless have been vandalism problems. Some towers are maintained by volunteer groups or via town affiliations. Ours is one of the best maintained in the state, although the cabin was destroyed by fire in 1994. The KCAC will consider submitting a write-up about our tower to the association, which also provides information about grants for fire-tower preservation

3. NYSDEC has grant program with a total of \$ 3,000,000.00 for invasive species removal. The KCAC/KCF might want to apply in a future year.
4. A second storm cleanup needs to be planned on the Mead Farm/Hawk Rock Trail to remove the larger trees from the May 15 tornado that were not cleaned up on the first round.
5. A mountain bike group has a stewardship agreement to maintain trails on Mt. Nimham, and is arranging for a group to obtain the OSHA chain saw certification that DEC requires. Some oversight of the work will be needed to ensure that not too many trees are removed.
6. Planning board: no news
7. Hikes and programs
 - First Day Hike review was successful. About 25 people started, and about 15 more joined the group along the trail. James Shearwood led some hikers down the wooded trail while the rest of the group went on the road.
 - Winter Walk at Town Center will be Feb 2, 2019 as part of Kent town festival. NYS Assembly Representative Sandy Galef will be there. The event will run 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM, and the hike time is TBA, possibly 2:00 PM.
 - Woodcock Walk, Great Swamp Wildlife Mgt Area, Cornwall Hill Road, March 30th, 7PM
 - Kent cleanup day – Sat April 27th

The organizers hope to want to expand above last year's level of involvement. Bill Buck suggested recycling some of the material collected during the cleanup via the Kent Recycling Center. It might be interesting to weigh the different materials and report statistics. Last year, the material probably went to a single stream recycling facility, via Lake Carmel Sanitation or the (Town or county?) Highway Department. Chris R will ask Town of Kent Highway Superintendent Rich Othmer how this was handled last year.

8. Chair's report

- Kent Lakes Committee
 - Most recent meeting was Dec.15. Next meeting will be Sat 1/18.
 - Seven Hills lake reported tried to get someone to look at their dam which was washed out after a big storm. The dam that broke at White Pond also not yet been repaired.
 - The group is trying to arrange training for Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) testing from July to December.
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/81576.html>. The program includes testing for dissolved oxygen and blue-green algae. Palmer Lake had a

deliberate carp kill because the population was becoming too high. The carp control vegetation, but if there is too much reduction in vegetation, the algae-level increases. Carp are able to go over a dam, and they are not supposed to escape. Kentwood Lake is considering adding carp.

- Bruce Barber has been authorized for another year. The committee is still uncertain whether to continue as an informal group or petition to become a town-appointed committee, as the KCAC did in 1976.
 - Hosting of a Lakes Forum this year is still under discussion
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- The DEC Climate Smart Communities program (<https://climatesmart.ny.gov/>) now has 230 NYS towns participating. Phillisptown has been awarded a grant and is paying \$500.00 per month to a program coordinator. Suggestion: invite Cold Spring resident Roberto Meuller to host a civic forum at the library about the Climate Smart program.
 - 2018 Annual Reports are due. Beth has compiled this report, which includes a long list of activities, to be appended, for the Town. For the DEC report, she still needs data on volunteer hours and miles traveled. The KCAC spent just \$310.00 on the fire tower last year. Beth will circulate the draft reports to the KCAC for comment and will then submit them.
 - Other. Beth has requested a GIS open space map from the county three times. The town's mapping consultant (Rhode, Inc.) created an open space map for the Kent Beautification Committee. The KCAC discussed seeking an estimate, or trying to obtain it from the county. Chris Ruthven has an open pace map of the entire county. He offered to ask the staff at the county GIS department whether they could they could break it to the town level.

The next meeting of the Kent CAC will be at 7 PM on Wednesday, February 20th, at Kent Town Hall, 25 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes, New York.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm