

Town of Kent Conservation Advisory Committee
Public Meeting
September 16, 2020 7:00 pm
Minutes

Attendees: Bill Buck, Anne Balant Campbell, Pamela Wadler, Bill Volckmann, Chair, Chris Ruthven (Kent Town Board)
Call to order 7:07 PM

Meeting Minutes

Approved minutes of the July 2020 meeting (no meeting was held in August).

Chair's Report

- Discussed event to honor former KCAC Chair Beth Herr.
- Webinar series topics coming up (multi-day topics) in collaboration with the NYS DEC and Hudsonia
 - Wetlands: Identification and Protection of an essential resource, September 21-24, 3:00pm to 4:30pm each day -closed
- Update on Kent Lakes Association
 - Next Lakes Association meeting scheduled for September 19, 2020
- Invasive Species

PRISM pulled about 8,000 water chestnuts from the lake at the Veteran's Park this year, compared to over 21,000 last summer. They are optimistic that they will be able to eradicate the water chestnuts completely in future years. Dorian D'Ausilio, member of the Lake Tibet Park District No. 2 Advisory Committee had been informed by Bill Buck that having firetrucks pump water in and out of the lakes may spread water chestnuts.

However, the DEC does not seem to have issued a strong recommendation to fire departments to reduce spread of any invasive that is water-borne. The use of "draft hydrants" and the transfer of water via their trucks from one body of water to another may cause spread. Chris has spoken to Ken Clair of Putnam County, who oversees the Fire Training Center, about this issue. This has also been discussed by the Kent Lakes Association, and Town Supervisor Maureen Fleming has discussed it with Bill Walters of the Lake Carmel Fire Department. Bill V. has approached this issue with the DEC. Directives originating from the state level may be needed to address this issue.

KCAC members are encouraged to get involved in the Arts on the Lake photography contest.

KCAC Projects

Climate Smart Communities (CSC)

Agreed upon changes to the Kent KCAC Info and Kent Conservation Foundation websites. Jasper Katzban will be hired to develop and host the Kent Climate Smart website. Anne will forward the latest draft of the “How green is my town” survey to Chris, who will attempt to obtain answers to the outstanding questions. Anne also will look into obtaining the calculation tool used by Ulster Climate Smart for their greenhouse gas inventory.

Kent Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)

- A proposal for funding the development of an NRI by Hudsonia has been submitted to the Putnam County Soil and Water District.
- The Kent Biodiversity Inventory project is getting increasing support from different lake associations, which have been welcoming the volunteer naturalists and even providing volunteers to assist them in the field. Chris Ruthven suggested contacting the Kent Lakes Association and perhaps giving a presentation at one of their meetings. The team has made arrangements with the Natural History Museum at the University of Connecticut to accept insects for their collection.
- Bill V. will remind Nate Nardi-Cyrus of DEC that we are waiting to receive their Biodiversity data of known species to assist with our inventory.

Other CAC projects

- Highlands Trail / North Putnam Greenway trail project with NYNJ Trail Conference – no new activity

Development Projects in Town of Kent

- No updates on new development projects in the town
- The Town Board wants to start the update of the comprehensive plan and also work on a mining ordinance.

Town of Kent CAC hikes and events

The Town of Kent CAC encourages all residents to get out and explore our wonderful outdoors while being responsible and maintaining a safe, social distance from other hikers during this 2019-COVID issue. There are many hiking trails available in this area where people can hike independently and enjoy time outdoors.

Planning for new events

- Mushroom walk at Clearpool: POSTPONED due to COVID meeting limitations
- Astronomy night: date and location TBD – on Hold

- The Recreation department is hosting hikes. Small, socially-distanced hikes may be hosted. Participants may need to sign a hold “harmless clause.” Considered exploring the protocols that would be needed for a Mount Nimham hike.

Social Media Outreach Report

Anne will obtain high resolution photos from Dave Ehnebuske

Kent Conservation Foundation Report

Updates on Nimham Mountain fire tower stewardship

- Maintenance date (graffiti painting) to be scheduled

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.

Next meeting: Weds. Oct. 21, 2020 at 7:00 pm