

Town of Kent Conservation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2021 at 7 PM

Attendees: Bill Volckmann, Chair, Bill Buck, Anne B. Campbell, Pamela Wadler
Chris Ruthven, Kent Town Board
Meeting called to order 7:10 PM
Approved minutes from January 2020 meeting

Chair's Report

- Review of upcoming NYS legislation
 - EPS foam container and loose fill packaging ban – effective January 01, 2022
 - Food scrap donation and recycling – effective January 01, 2022

This has been discussed at KRC and should not prevent the collection and re-use of Styrofoam packing materials. A food composting process, with or without an external contractor, would require more volunteer time than the center can commit, especially during COVID, and might require more of the town's property.

- Mat Castro of NYCDEP has been in touch with representatives of Gipsy Trail Club and other landowners re possible logging and trail activities in the part of the Horseshound unit bordering on Schrade and Whangtown Roads. Anne will follow up and Chris will check to see if the Planning Board has issued any logging permits to DEP for this.
- The Trees for Tribes Program is again offering free trees and shrubs for replanting of stream-side forests for eligible landowners in the Croton Watershed. The Town's Environmental Consultant, Bruce Barber is working on this with Jessica Alba of the Watershed Agricultural Council, which is associated with DEP.
<https://www.nycwatershed.org/forestry/implementation/trees-for-tribs/>
 - Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) announced they are accepting grant applications for 2021 for management and outreach activities related to invasive species in the Lower Hudson Valley region. <https://www.lhprism.org/apply-projects-or-funding>. Applications are due by February 22, 2021. Lindsey Yoder is applying a regional lake management plan for invasives for Kent via the Lakes Committee
- Scenic Hudson Virtual Conference – Using Scenic Hudson's Solar Mapping tool
 - Reviewed meeting held on January 21, 2021
- NYS DEC Land Use 101 webinar series
 - Reviewed NRI planning webinar held January 26, 2021.
- Reminder to look at all webinars put out by the NYS DEC at their Land Use 101 webinar web site: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5094.html#Training>
- Update on Kent Lakes Association
 - Regular meetings are held to bring together the various HOA (home owners associations)/LOAs (lake owners associations) which have a lake as part of their

property along with any others interested to discuss water quality issues and updates around lakes located in Town of Kent.

- Most lakes in Town of Kent are private property, however, all KLA meetings are open to the public to discuss valuable water quality issues and water management ideas.
- Meetings to be generally held virtually on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7PM using Zoom. Link to be posted before each meeting (ask for the link, if you are interested in joining a KLA meeting).
- The Kent Lakes Association will be hosting a series of educational forums on improving water quality and enjoyment of lake water bodies. These forums will be held via Zoom each third Thursday of the month. The educational forum forum schedule is:
 - Thursday, February 18, 2021, 7:00 PM - Geese Management
 - Thursday, March 18, 2021, 7:00 PM - Invasive Plant Management
 - Thursday, April 15, 2021, 7:00 PM - Shoreline and Buffer Landscaping Techniques
 - Thursday, May 20, 2021, 7:00 PM - Septic System Maintenance
- The presenter for the February 18 forum on Geese Management is Stephan Beffre, a Certified Wildlife Biologist with the Wildlife Services Department of the USDA . The presentation will consist of a discussion of geese biology and habitat characteristics, some of the hazards and difficulties of geese and a detailed description and video of various practical hands-on geese control methods. Following the presentation, Stephan will be available to answer questions.
- Meeting information for the February 18, 2021 meeting is as follows:
 - Topic: Goose Management
 - Time: Feb 18, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5877083251>

Meeting ID: 587 708 3251

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,5877083251# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 587 708 3251

- An informational brochure for this forum on geese management is included in the CAC meeting details.
- e-waste collection for the town is no longer available at Kent Recycling Center. The Town board is planning a program for a town-wide free drop-off a few times per year.

Climate Smart Communities (CSC)

- Discuss possible grant opportunities for CSC. Anne will follow up with Supervisor Fleming and the Town grant writers. The Op-Ed letter and article that the CSC task force sent to the Putnam Press Times have been published.

Kent Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)

- Prospective grant funding through the Putnam County Soil & Conservation District may cover only part of the cost of the NRI. Bill Buck has asked Hudsonia whether the proposal and cost estimate for our NRI can be broken into multiple phases with individuals price quotes. A response is still pending, and Bill will follow up.
- Update on Kent Biodiversity Inventory project: Planning for spring fieldwork is underway

Other CAC projects

- Highlands Trail / North Putnam Greenway trail project with NYNJ Trail Conference on hold until spring

Development Projects in Town of Kent

- Discussed the proposed changes to the town code to accommodate soil removal, excavation and mining in connection with proposed projects in the Town of Kent and the response to the town board from the CAC and Planning Board. KCAC had responded to Town Board with feedback re the proposed code.

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 COVID-19. There are many hiking trails available in this area where people can hike independently and enjoy time outdoors.

Planning for new events

Bill V. will coordinate with Kent Recreation to expand the hike opportunities they provide.

The kiosk for the Hawk Rock/Mead Farm Trails is ready to be reinstalled. Bill V. will consult Lori DiLorenzo of DEP about a new location a bit further in from the parking area. It might be possible to install it during April, in time for a possible hike to Hawk Rock in May as in former years.

Social Media Outreach Report

Reviewed activity on Facebook and other social media outlets.

Kent Conservation Foundation Report

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

Bill V will look into doing any filings needed to maintain tax exempt status

Updates on Nimham Mountain fire tower stewardship

- Nimham fire tower will require painting when the weather warms up - Date TBD
- Trash pick-up is needed – Date TBD
- KCF and CAC will establish a plan to clear brush around the corbelled stone chamber on Nimham Mountain in Spring 2021

The next meeting date for the Conservation Advisory Committee will be March 17, 2021 at 7:00 PM, to be held as a video/telephone conference via WebEx

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.