

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

Attendees: Bill Volckmann, Chair, Bill Buck, Anne B. Campbell, Pamela Wadler
Meeting Minutes: Approved minutes from the meeting of October 20, 2021.

Chair's Report

- Review NYS DEC Land Use 101 webinar series
 - Recent webinar series was recorded covering wetlands
 - A 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 “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). Meetings are open to any interested persons in town.
 - The Kent Lakes Association hosted a series of educational forums on improving water quality and enjoyment of lake water bodies. These forum recordings are available for review online.
- Spotted lanternfly
 - Keep alert for egg masses which appear around this time of year
 - Eliminate egg masses to reduce the spread of spotted lanternfly
 - Search vehicles for egg masses, especially before a long trip
 - There are many useful resources and references available online
 - A handful of these references includes:
 - <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/113303.html>
 - <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/pests-diseases/hungry-pests/the-threat/spotted-lanternfly/spotted-lanternfly>
 - <https://www.udel.edu/udaily/2020/august/spotted-lanternfly-invasive-pest/>
 - <https://blog.davey.com/2021/07/spotted-lanternflies-predators/>
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KCAC Projects

Climate Smart Communities (CSC)

The Climate Smart Communities committee is a working group to assist the town in achieving Climate Smart goals. The next CSC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Kent Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)

- Discussed the status of the contract with between Hudsonia and the Town and the question of who will be subcontracted to do the graphic design work.
- Pamela is starting to work on a press release and will confer with Bill V. re the details. The press release might also mention that we need more volunteers to join the KCAC.

Other CAC projects

- Highlands Trail / North Putnam Greenway trail project with NYNJ Trail Conference – not discussed.

Development Projects in Town of Kent

- Discussion regarding proposed changes to the town code to accommodate soil removal, excavation and mining in connection with proposed land development projects in the Town of Kent and the response to the town board from the CAC and Planning Board.
- Anne to collate the KCAC's comments which will be sent to Town Board liaison Chris Ruthven.

Town of Kent CAC hikes and events

Planning for new events

- Astronomy night
 - Proposed star viewing evening hosted by Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association (MHAA) will be December 11, 2021 with alternate date of December 12, 2021 at the Town Hall
 - The Town will shut off local area and parking lot lighting during this event to assist with night sky viewing. Pamela will confirm time with the astronomers and obtain guidance for participants re attire etc. She will also do the publicity.
 - Bill V. will confirm date with the town and arrange for lights to be turned off during the event.
- New Year's Day hike
 - The location will be Pelton Pond at Fahnestock Park, New Year's Day at 11 am. This is an easy hike of about a mile. Anne and Bill B. to lead, Bill V. and Pamela will attend if they can. Anne, Bill, and Pamela will meet to walk the trail in advance. Pamela will do the publicity.

Social Media Outreach Report

Not discussed.

Kent Conservation Foundation Report

Not discussed.

Discussed dates for the December 2021 CAC. The committee does not always meet in December. This year, the committee will meet but on an alternate date of Tuesday Dec. 14 at 7:00 PM.

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.