

**Kent Conservation Advisory Committee, Town of Kent
Meeting Minutes, June 17, 2015**

Attendees

CAC members present: Anne Balant-Campbell, Bill Buck, David Ehnebuske, Beth Herr, Phil Tolmach, Bill Volckmann. CAC member/s absent: Marty Collins. Visitors: Emi Pennington.

Note: Ex-officio secretary Jean Ehnebuske was absent. She would like to thank CAC member Dave Ehnebuske for recording the minutes for her.

Chairperson Beth Herr called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

1. Chair's report

Presentation to Rotary Club of Carmel

The Chair reported that she and Dave would be making informational presentations about the CAC and the Kent Conservation Foundation (KCF) respectively at the Rotary's meeting on July 2.

Eagle Scout project update

Beth stated that Patrick LaFontaine sent her an e-mail updating her about his project at Mead Farm and Hawk Rock. He and his peers have almost finished the construction of the informational kiosk. They have successfully marked the red trail, although they plan to return to add red paint blazes. Patrick also stated that from the funds he raised online and at ShopRite, he has enough to complete his project. He expects to finish it in the next month.

Garden at Arts on the Lake

In preparation for the summer concert series at Arts on the Lake, Beth said that she spruced up the old garden and put in some new plantings. She would like to establish a garden of native plantings there and proposed that maybe the CAC could develop the plan for the garden. Phil Tolmach commented that he has a friend, Pete, at Native Landscapes Garden Center in Pawling, who might be interested in helping.

Kent CAC Facebook page

The Chair reported that she has established and will maintain [a Facebook page](#) for the CAC. It is now live. She encouraged CAC members with a Facebook account to like and share the CAC's page.

NYCDEP increased liability request for permit

Beth stated that she asked Supervisor Fleming to provide a certificate verifying the increased liability insurance for the DEP land at Whangtown Road.

2. Website

Dave, webmaster for the Kentcac.info website, reported that last month there were visits from 269 users. As usual, visits peaked just before CAC hikes or events.

3. Kent Nature Almanac

Dave stated that almost everyone who subscribes to the Kent Nature Almanac opens it. Beth reminded CAC members about the exhibit of the winning photos of the Kent Nature Almanac Photo Competition now on display at the Kent Public Library until the end of June. She commented that it had been quite well received. Its next stop will be at Arts on the Lake where the photos will be exhibited through the end of July. After that, the display will move to the Kent Town Hall. Beth said that she would like to see a display of "Best of Kent Nature Almanac" photos exhibited at the Kent Public Library at the end of this calendar year or at the beginning of the next one.

4. Hikes and programs

CAC hike with participants from Arts on the Lake (AotL) and the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK)

The Chair stated that 21 people turned out for this rather challenging hike on June 13—at least half of them from Manhattan. She said there was talk about planning another such hike with these two organizations about the same time next year.

Butterfly Count

This event will take place on Saturday, July 18, from 10 AM – 2 PM, starting at the Nimham Mountain State Forest parking area on Gipsy Trail Road. For more info, click [here](#).

Firefly Social

The CAC will consider holding this event in the summer of 2016.

Student hike

Beth reported that in spite of notices in the press, no one but herself and the two hike leaders showed up for this hike to Hawk Rock on the weekend of May 30-31.

5. Fire Tower Committee

Mural in fire tower cabin vandalized

The Chair told CAC members that (a) vandal(s) had used white paint to deface one of the murals with graffiti. Bill V. said he planned to work on removing it.

Bill added that he had recently encountered three potential vandals at the fire tower who seemed intent on destroying the safety railing around the trap door until they ran into him.

Photos taken by Arts on the Lake (AotL) hikers

Beth reported that several AotL participants on the June 13 hike had taken photos of the fire tower.

Trash collection at fire tower

Bill V. and his daughter, Emi, collected trash at the fire tower prior to the hike on June 13. Bill anticipates that it is going to be increasingly difficult to dispose of fire tower trash since the Kent Recycling Center will be getting rid of its trash dumpster.

Scheduling a work day prior to the October 11 Fire Tower Celebration

CAC members decided to hold a work day on Saturday, October 3, from 10 AM – 12 PM, to spruce up the grounds, pick up debris, etc. It was suggested that we involve help from local school organizations and others. It was also noted that the use of power equipment is not an option.

6. Kent Conservation Foundation

Dave, KCF president, reported that the KCF had paid for all the materials necessary for the fire tower cabin restoration. The next project for the KCF will be getting a fire tower maintenance plan in place.

7. Other

ELLA (Environmental Leaders Learning Alliance)

ELLA is hosting a workshop on how to create a natural resource inventory on the evening of June 25. Beth has registered to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

The next meeting of the Kent CAC will be at 7 PM on Wednesday, July 15, at the Kent Town Hall. All meetings of the Kent CAC are open to the public.

Respectfully submitted,

David Ehnebuske for Jean Ehnebuske,
ex-officio recording secretary