

Meeting Minutes for Town of Kent Conservation Advisory Committee - April 18, 2018

Attendees

Town of Kent CAC Members

Co-Chairs Beth Herr, David Ehnebuske

Bill Buck

Bill Volckmann

Phil Tolmach

Visitors

Dan Gallo

Barbara Gallo

Meeting Minutes

- Minutes from March 21m 2018 approved

Discussion about activities in past month

- Discussion of what critters everyone saw in past few weeks: Frogs came out in the vernal pools, bears over there! Brief discussion of bear sighting in Town of Kent, NY
- Media pages
 - Kent CAC page
 - 229 active past month
 - 51 People shared theme of Lake Carmel
 - Kent Nature Almanac
 - Lower activity for past month
 - Not much going on

Saturday, June 23, 18

- Fire Tower committee
 - Update on NYS DEC Volunteer Stewardship Agreement (VSA)
 - Bill Volckmann submitted the VSA renewal in February, no update at this time
 - VSA renewal will renew VSA under Kent Conservation Foundation instead of Town of Kent CAC
 - Annual report was submitted to NYS DEC
 - Report on work on fire tower in 2017 submitted per agreement
 - New QR web-based logbook sign will be printed up and KCF/CAC will post at fire tower within next couple of months, pending scheduling
 - NYS Parks & Trails grant
- NYC DEP Stewardship Agreement renewal
 - Submitted to Matt Castro, DEP representative in charge of stewardship agreements
 - Matt wanted a sign in the kiosk at Whangtown Road stating that the land is owned by NYC DEP
 - Dave Ehnebuske created a mock-up of the sign and submitted to DEP for approval
 - DEP awaiting approval from supervisor
 - DEP wanted CAC to develop a plan to look at erosion control
 - DEP wanted a way to track visitor information
 - Dave E. Demonstrated what we are looking to do for a QR based web log book for Nimham fire tower
 - DEP likes that, CAC will go ahead with that as well
 - Dave really managed conversation with NYC DEP
 - Took some effort to determine which section in NYC DEP we are supposed to work with, stewardship agreements vs. field operations
 - CAC must now send annual reports to both units in DEP

Programs CAC runs for public

- Woodcock walk in Patterson went quite well, we heard some woodcock peeps and a couple of birds flying
- Sort of quite because of the cool and windy weather
- In general was popular, very nice sunset

Earth Day Town of Kent Clean-up Day - Saturday, April 21, 2018

- Erika of Kent Beatification committee put together a zone map for Town of Kent and has set up
 - 11 Zones in town
- Must sign up for clean-up and get stickers for garbage bags
- Stickers will help quantify 'floatables' which are picked up and thus kept out of storm drains as well as identify bags to be picked up by trash pick-up on Monday
- Kent CAC will be working White Pond Road for trash pick-up on Saturday
 - Meeting location is at White Pond parking lot at

Calendar - Hike, walks and other events

- Cornell Cooperative Extension is doing 6 hikes, 2nd Sunday of every month through summer
- Hawk Rock hike - 20MAY2018
 - Meeting location is end of Whangtown Road at 11:00AM
- Night with the fireflies - 23JUN2018
 - Meeting location at Town of Kent Town Center
- Butterfly ramble - Saturday, 07JUL2018
 - Coincides with North American Butterfly Association, annual butterfly count
- Nimham Mountain hike - Sunday, 14OCT2018

Kent Lakes Council

- Kent Lakes Council continues to meet
- CAC members continue to attend for updates
- For further updates, look for meeting minutes from Kent Lakes Council
- Forum under discussion
- Kentwood Lake opening 12MAY2018 for public visit
 - Allow folks to see what Kentwood Lake committee does to manage their lake
- Lake Carmel
 - Fishing derby 23JUN2018

Clearpool Model Forest

- Successful shiitake mushroom farming seminar
 - Put on by Cornell Cooperative Extension in conjunction with Clearpool Education Center
 - Demonstrated how to farm shiitake mushrooms
- Model forest education for high school students
 - Teaching management and use of the forest
 - New signage and kiosk
 - Open to public on weekends
- Discussion about building new sugar house
- Augmented reality sandbox

Notices from other environment and conservation groups

- Putnam County Tourism has new web site

Hike Putnam County is new Facebook page

Kent Planning Board update

- Update on truck stop being planned off Bowen Road/Route 52

Conservation Advisory Committee member

- Town of Kent CAC has an open position with the retirement of one CAC member

Meeting Adjourned

- Meeting adjourned at 8:22PM