



Town of Kent Conservation Advisory Committee

Minutes from Monthly CAC Meeting

March 16, 2022 at 7 PM

Attendees: William Volckmann - Chair, Anne B. Campbell, Pamela Wadler, Bill Buck, Roxanne Roth

Chair's Report

Update from CAC chair on upcoming events and news affecting conservation activities

- Review NYS DEC Land Use 101 webinar series
 - Why did the amphibian cross the road? The NYS DEC is preparing for amphibian migrations and recorded a recent webinar series vernal pools and monitoring.
 - Amphibian migrations from vernal pools have likely begun as of 3/16/22. Maybe consider vernal pool migration monitoring for 2023?
 - 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 will be having a weekend seminar on lake health, date TBD at the Sedgewick Club Boathouse, stay tuned!

KCAC Projects

Review projects the KCAC is currently working on

Climate Smart Communities (CSC)

The Climate Smart Communities committee is a working group to assist the town in achieving Climate Smart goals. The CSC committee will provide an update to the CAC.

The CSC meeting is held monthly on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

- Last year CAC ran a campaign which entitled us to a \$5000 grant for community greenhouse gas inventories. This grant will allow us to hire Vassar students to perform community and municipal greenhouse gas inventories.
- A sustainability review can be done after inventory is done.
- Reporting requirements due by March 31st.
- Participating in this project will help us move to climate smart certification.

Kent Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)

- Review the recent grant win from the NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program to produce an NRI for the town.
- CAC needs to advise who will be at the initial meeting- ie planning board
- Biodiversity Inventory project
 - Project being performed by colleagues of the CAC to perform a full biodiversity inventory of flora and fauna living in our local area.
 - Myrmecologist has been identified and will be helping with ant ID and cataloging.

Other CAC projects

- Highlands Trail / North Putnam Greenway trail project with NY/NJ Trail Conference
 - This is an ongoing project working with the NY/NJ Trail Conference to develop an extension of the long-distance Highlands Trail from Highlands State Park, across Northern Putnam County to the Connecticut state line
 - This trail will connect with existing trails in New Jersey and Connecticut as a long-distance hiking trail
 - Currently the Highlands trail is planned to go through Huestis park and then onward to White Pond MUA and Big Buck Mountain MUA.
 - Currently there is no activity scheduled during the winter months, looking at doing additional trail work with NY/NJ Trail Conference starting in March/April

Discussion and review of current Land Development Projects in town

- 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.
 - The current moratorium on soil removal and excavation has been extended another six months. This will allow more time for the town board to properly modify town code to incorporate new land-use zoning requirements covering soil removal, excavation and mining in town, with the consideration that demographics and population has changed significantly in the last 50 to 100

years which requires updated land-use planning and zoning around the concepts of large-scale excavation and mining.

- Next town board and planning board meeting to discuss is March 28th.
 - Bus garage discussions ongoing. Carmel Central School District (CCSD) may be discontinuing this project.
 - CCSD should consider EV buses to move toward non-emissions vehicles and possibly cut back on vehicle maintenance needs.
- Kent country square project is on hold.
- New federal infrastructure funds have more stipulations about walk and cycle friendly planning. Town of Kent looking into sketches and planning to secure funding. Town board is meeting with a grant writing firm and police chief.
 - A letter of intent needs to be sent to the DOT to see if we can pursue a grant for routes 311 and 52.

Town of Kent CAC hikes and events

The Town of Kent CAC has a wonderful inventory of trails and open spaces available for all types of activities, hiking, bicycling, fishing, hunting, and different field sports activities, all here within the town. The CAC encourages everyone to get out and explore our wonderful outdoors. As part of our work, the CAC holds different outdoor events throughout the year to bring folks together for a fun activity combined with some history of the local town.

Planning for new events

- Discuss new events for 2022
 - Huestis park Mountain Laurel hike. Tentative June 11th or 12th, TBD. Date to be finalized in May. Monitor Laurel for estimated date of bloom to determine hike date.
 - Woodcock walk scheduled for April 23rd at 7:30PM at the Great Swamp Wildlife Management Area on Cornwall Hill Road in Patterson, NY.
 - Hawk Rock trail hike – May 21st or 22nd 2022. Finalize at next meeting.
 - Earth day cleanup event?

NYSAC

- Any organization generating over 2,000 lbs food waste needs a food waste reactivation plan.
 - Only business that may qualify in our area is Shoprite.

Kent Conservation Foundation Report

Receive a report from the Kent Conservation Foundation

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

Updates on Nimham Mountain fire tower stewardship

- KCF and CAC is still working on a plan to clear brush around the corbelled stone chamber on Nimham Mountain

Meeting End

Final comments from anyone

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, April 20th, 2022 at 7:00PM by WebEx video/telephone conference.

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.