

**Kent Conservation Advisory Committee, Town of Kent,  
Meeting Minutes, November 20, 2013**

**Attendees**

Committee members: Anne Balant-Campbell, Bill Buck, Marty Collins, Dave Ehnebuske, Beth Herr, Phil Tolmach, Bill Volckmann. Town Board Liaison: Lou Tartaro. Visitors: George Baum, Jean Ehnebuske.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

**1. Chair's report**

Emerald ash borers

Chairperson Beth Herr reported that Cornell Cooperation Extension has confirmed the presence of emerald ash borers in Putnam County. She proposed that the CAC might host a program this winter—while people are using firewood—to educate the community about how long-distance transporting of firewood contributes to the rapid dispersal of these highly destructive beetles. After some discussion, it was decided that the Chair should go ahead and contact the USDA to find a speaker and call Clearpool Model Forest to find out if they might host the session in one of their large meeting rooms.

The Chair and Vice-chair Dave Ehnebuske plan to meet in January with Maureen Fleming, the newly-elected Town of Kent Supervisor, to discuss a number of topics. The idea of hosting an educational program on emerald ash borers would be one of those topics.

Recognizing Lou Tartaro, Town of Kent liaison

The Chair noted the contributions of Councilman Lou Tartaro during his service as the CAC's liaison to the Town of Kent. She expressed the appreciation and thanks of all CAC members for his help.

**2. Kentcac.info**

Dave stated that of the 122 unique visits to the website since last month's report, 97 people used their PCs to access the site and 25 used their mobile devices.

He reported that he has noted many repeat visitors to the Kent Nature Almanac page. The Chair added that she is happy that more people are contributing their observations and photos.

**3. Natural Resource Inventory (NRI)**

The Chair stated there is nothing new to report. She would still like to engage Dr. Robert Naczi of the New York Botanical Garden to help with the Natural Resource Inventory at Clearpool Model Forest. She mentioned that the kettlehole bog would be a good site for inventorying plants. The Chair is aware Dr. Naczi would need an intern, and said she would look for a grant to fund that position.

**4. Hikes and trails**

Fall foliage hike to Mount Nimham Fire Tower

The Chair reported that it was a beautiful day for the hike, and that hikers enjoyed it. Since maintenance had recently been completed on the fire tower, it looked especially good.

Hike to kettlehole bog at Clearpool Model Forest

The Chair stated that the hike was a great success.

New Year's Day hike

Discussion ensued about where to hike: Fred Dill Wildlife Sanctuary; Pelton Pond in Fahnestock State Park; the kettlehole bog in Clearpool Model Forest (via a trail that avoids the rock scramble); Seven Jewels Lake at Chuang Yen Monastery. The majority seemed to support hiking once again at Fred Dill Wildlife Sanctuary. The hike will start at 1 PM.

## **5. Fire Tower Committee**

### Another successful work day

Bill Volekman reported that he and his father painted the fire tower to cover some recently added graffiti. He reported that it had not been tagged nearly so much in the last month as previously.

### George Baum's anti-graffiti strategy study

George shared his experiments with various substances that might be effective graffiti repellants. Explaining that his goal was to find a substance that would be a protective barrier against graffiti on the plexiglass that will cover the student murals, George showed CAC members the results of various substances he tried. His experiments led him to conclude that auto polish would be most effective. He recommended trying it out on a half-sheet of plexiglass for several weeks to see how it fares. The Chair said she would get a piece of plexiglass to Bill V. so he could try it out. She thanked George for his work.

### Status of permit to repair floor

The Chair asked Bill V. if the CAC needed to obtain a Temporary Revocable Permit (TRP) to replace the floor. Bill V. responded that he had no time to check on that, but that he planned to do so soon.

### Status of braces

Bill V. reported that he has heard nothing from Greg at Brewster Iron Works. Dave volunteered to follow up with Greg, and Bill V. welcomed his help.

### Visit from Mount Beacon Fire Tower representative

Bill V. remarked that David Rocco was unable to make tonight's meeting due to a last-minute commitment. Bill V. will invite him to the January 15, 2014 meeting.

### Status of PLAN Kent

The Chair stated that an attorney, Stephen Repsher, has offered to advise the CAC as it considers options for reviving or creating a non-profit organization. Bill V. added that Sal Tripi definitely confirmed the CAC has \$2,000 available from PLAN Kent to use for flooring expenses. Although he has tried to contact Sal, he has not heard from him.

The Chair said that she plans to contact Bob Bradley for advice. Bob is the most recent past-president of PLAN Kent.

### 5-year plan

Dave said he will update the 5-year plan and send it out via e-mail for comments.

## **6. Environmental Leaders Learning Alliance (ELLA)**

Phil Tolmach stated that he attended a talk by Gretchen Stevens on the importance of biodiversity.

## **7. Clearpool Model Forest**

The Chair stated that Clearpool has plans to fix a road and a bridge on its grounds. There will also be a new kiosk that will explain Clearpool's purpose. Also in the plans are creating a curriculum for sixth graders and adding many programs. The Chair also said that Clearpool has reported a black swallow-wort invasion and is taking steps to contain it.

## **8. Other**

Phil had no news from the Town of Kent planning board. The Chair asked if she might be permitted to go on a site walk sometime. Phil suggested that she could ask about that when she and Dave meet with the new town supervisor in January.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

**The next meeting of the Kent CAC will be at 7 PM on Wednesday, January 15, 2014, at the Kent Town Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Ehnebuske,  
ex-officio recording secretary