

**Kent Conservation Advisory Committee, Town of Kent,
Meeting Minutes, February 15, 2012**

Attendees

Committee members: Anne Balant-Campbell, George Baum, Dave Ehnebuske, Beth Herr. Visitors: Wilma Baker, Jean Ehnebuske.

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM.

1. Chairperson's Report

Scheduling hikes

Chair Beth Herr reported that she has been checking with other groups to make sure the CAC avoids scheduling conflicts for hikes. Because she found out that hikes organized by Highlands Preservation, Inc. are slated for the first Sunday of the month, she changed the previously-determined date for the CAC's hike to Hawk Rock. It is now scheduled for Sunday, April 29 at 11 AM.

Workshops and lectures

The Chair noted that the ELLA workshop she was registered to attend, "Water Words That Work," was postponed due to snowy weather. It will be presented in May instead.

She reported that she attended a lecture by Daniel Atha, a researcher at The New York Botanical Garden, about his work inventorying plants at the Ice Pond Conservation Area. She concluded that it would be doable to document plant specimens in Kent. She added that she will bring the tools needed to do a such a survey to the next CAC meeting.

Meeting with Supervisor Kathy Doherty

The Chair reported that she and Vice-Chair Dave Ehnebuske met with Supervisor Doherty. One of the CAC's liaisons, Councilwoman Penny Osborn, was present. The other liaison, Councilman Lou Tartaro, could not attend because he was out of town. The group talked about what the CAC has accomplished and what it could accomplish going forward.

The Supervisor mentioned that the Town of Kent publishes a newsletter in March and in August, and said that she would like the CAC to submit an article. She also suggested the CAC could organize litter patrols for the back roads in Kent. Another suggestion was that the CAC could host a forum on solutions to septic system problems.

The Chair said she had asked the Supervisor where to find information about Kent's "paper" roads. Supervisor Doherty replied that the information is in the Master Plan for the Town of Kent.

Putnam County Environmental Management Council (EMC)

The Chair stated that she researched the history behind the Putnam County's EMC, and discovered that it disbanded because two of the CACs in other towns fell apart. She reported that several towns and villages in the county currently have a CAC or the equivalent of one (by another name). She may be contacting County Executive MaryEllen Odell.

Map of Putnam County's open space

The Chair said that she would like to locate a map designating open space. Dave suggested that she contact Brian Alberghini of the Putnam County Land Trust.

Prospective project with local Girl Scouts

The Chair reported that the Girl Scouts will not be working with the CAC after all. They found an alternative project with a hospital.

Training for North American Amphibian Monitoring Program

The Chair reminded CAC members that training for anyone interested in this opportunity is scheduled for late February/early March. See <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/50247.html> for more information.

"Frog Pond Party"

The Chair introduced the idea of the CAC hosting a "Frog Pond Party" in June, possibly at a pond off

Horsepound Road. Participants could tape the frogs' songs and survey the frog population.

Publicity on George Baum's retirement

The Chair passed around a few clippings from the local papers that featured articles about George Baum's retirement from chairing the CAC for the past twelve years. The articles focused on George's many contributions to the CAC and the wider community. They also announced the appointment of Beth Herr as the incoming chairperson.

2. Appointment of CAC member

Although the Chair has as yet received no official word on the outcome, an application from Marty Collins for the open position on the CAC was scheduled to be discussed at the Kent Town Board meeting this week.

3. Correspondence

The Chair received a letter from the Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College about a workshop in March, "Stormwater Management and Green Infrastructure Planning, Construction and Compliance." For more information, visit <http://www.nativeplantcenter.org/events.htm#March12>.

4. Kentcac.info website

Dave reported that in the last month, the website had 136 distinct visitors (not counting repeat visits by the same person). He announced that he added a "News" page to the website. Currently, it features an article about changes in the leadership of the CAC—George Baum's retirement as the chairperson and Beth Herr's acceptance of that role. It also reports on new and upcoming activities of the CAC. The article was written by Marty Collins and includes a photo by Dave.

5. Nature Almanac

The Chair spoke about this new endeavor to create a "community diary," and reported that in the first month, there were quite a few submissions. She thanked George for his. Dave said that if the CAC has no objection, he plans to launch the Nature Almanac as part of the Kentcac.info website. Those interested in posting their observations would be able to do so at <http://www.kentcac.info/almanac/>.

6. Hikes and Trails

The Chair expressed that she would like to table this agenda item until after she has had a chance to meet with CAC member Bill Buck. Bill has just returned from a collecting trip to Chile for The New York Botanical Garden.

7. Mt. Nimham Fire Tower Committee

George reported he has assembled a committee of six individuals who will comprise the Fire Tower Committee. They will be helping George carry out the CAC's stewardship of the Fire Tower. Committee members are: Jim Baker, Tom Hard, Tom Immich, George Mazzone, Bill Volkman, and Paul Wilhelm.

George said he is continuing to look into fencing options so that the fencing along the sides of the stairs can be replaced. Dave and Anne Balant-Campbell volunteered to help with that project.

8. ELLA (Hudson Hills and Highlands Environmental Leaders Learning Alliance)

The Chair stated there was nothing new to report.

9. Other

World's growing population

Anne mentioned a documentary she heard about recently regarding the increasing growth in the world

population and its effect.

Kent Recycling Center

Wilma said that the Recycling Center will be investing in some prefabricated buildings to expand their space.

Preparing for Hawk Rock hike

George suggested that the CAC might want to remove invasives and check paths and signage before the hike on April 29. Members agreed.

Earth Day

The Chair announced that there would be a celebration of Earth Day at the Clearpool Model Forest on Saturday, April 21, between 10 AM - 2 PM. All events are free.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 PM.

The next meeting of the CAC will be at 7 PM on Wednesday, March 21, at the Kent Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Ehnebuske,
ex-officio recording secretary