

**Kent Conservation Advisory Committee, Town of Kent**  
**Meeting Minutes, November 18, 2015**

**Attendees**

CAC members present: Anne Balant-Campbell, Bill Buck, David Ehnebuske, Beth Herr, Phil Tolmach, Bill Volckmann. CAC members absent: Marty Collins. Visitors: George Baum, Jean Ehnebuske.

Chair Beth Herr called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

**1. Chair's report**

Correspondence

*Thank-you notes*

Chair Beth Herr reported that she mailed hand-written thank-you notes to everyone who volunteered their time, talents and efforts to prepare for or work at the Mount Nimham Fire Tower Festival on Sunday, October 11. CAC members expressed their appreciation to Beth.

*Bedford Audubon Society Newsletter*

Beth pointed out that in the [Fall/Winter](#) and [Winter](#) issues of this newsletter there is information about upcoming lectures and guided nature walks in our area that may be of interest.

KCAC and KCF presentations to Rotary Club of Carmel

This item was moved to the end of the meeting.

NYCDEP increased liability request for permits

The Chair said she would bring this issue up once again when she meets with Town Supervisor Maureen Fleming after the first of the year. She also plans to ask for a discussion regarding which Town Board member will be the CAC's liaison in 2016.

Kiosk at trail head for Mead Farm and Hawk Rock

Dave Ehnebuske presented the idea of posting a 16" x 20" map on the inside the kiosk constructed by Patrick LaFontaine for his Eagle Scout project. The map would serve as a resource for hikers. Dave would like to get it printed on aluminum and put it up near the beginning of the year.

Beth said she would like to find a volunteer to be the "caretaker" for the kiosk and keep it supplied with brochures, etc. Anne Balant-Campbell suggested her mother might be willing to do that. Beth replied that she would ask her.

Jean Ehnebuske suggested that the CAC add a QR code to the kiosk to provide hikers with information about what to watch on their walks. Beth said that if the CAC decided to do that, she would write up a "nature guide" for that purpose.

Grant opportunity with Hudson River Estuary Program

Beth stated she plans to contact the organization to learn more about the eligibility of the CAC and/or the KCF in applying for one of the recently announced grants.

Possible Eagle Scout project

Beth and Dave talked about a discussion they had each had independently with Ian Troge, a scout looking for a project at Hawk Rock. Dave suggested the scout look into constructing a boardwalk over the 30 to 50 foot swampy area on the low part of the trail to/from Hawk Rock.

**2. Outreach communication**

The Chair asked Dave if he had set a date for the four-member Communications Committee to meet. Dave replied that he hadn't done that yet, but plans to get to it soon.

Beth reminded CAC members that they may want to check out the online information resources that are already in place: the [Kent CAC website](#), the Kent CAC Facebook page, the Mount Nimham Facebook page, and the [Kent Nature Almanac](#).

### **3.Hikes and programs**

#### Walk Off the Turkey hike

Dave suggested the CAC sponsor a Walk Off the Turkey hike on the day following Thanksgiving, Friday, November 27. Beth suggested the hike should be scheduled from 1 – 3 PM. Beth asked Dave to email her the announcement he sent out for the only other time the CAC planned such a hike.

#### New Year's Day hike

After a brief discussion, CAC members decided to schedule this annual hike from 1 – 3 PM at the Fred Dill Wildlife Sanctuary in Carmel.

### **4. Fire Tower Committee**

No report.

### **5. Report from the Kent Conservation Foundation (KCF)**

President Dave Ehnebuske stated that board members would be holding their monthly meeting directly after the CAC meeting is adjourned. He said that there will be no meeting in December.

Bill Buck gave a check to Treasurer Phil Tolmach for membership in the KCF. Beth Herr did the same.

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

Nothing to report.

### **7. Clearpool Model Forest**

Nothing to report. The next meeting of Clearpool's advisory committee will be in January.

### **8. KCAC and KCF presentations to the Rotary Club of Carmel**

Beth shared with CAC members the presentation she gave at the Rotary Club of Carmel on July 2.

Following Beth, Dave presented for CAC members the talk he gave.

Dave invited comments and suggestions. Anne said she liked the look of the type font Dave used in his slides. She also liked the brevity of the text. She suggested that perhaps the brochures could be modified to be similar to the presentation slides in look and in the text. Phil suggested Dave change two words for greater clarity, and Dave said he would incorporate Phil's suggestion.

### **9. Other**

As usual, there will be no CAC meeting in December. **The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Kent CAC will be at 7 PM on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at the Kent Town Hall.** All meetings of the Kent CAC are open to the public.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Ehnebuske,  
ex-officio recording secretary