

**Kent Conservation Advisory Committee, Town of Kent,
Meeting Minutes, July 20, 2016**

Attendees: CAC members present: Bill Buck, Dave Ehnebuske, Beth Herr, Phil Tolmach, Bill Volckmann. CAC members absent: Anne Balant-Campbell, Marty Collins. Ex-officio recording secretary: Jean Ehnebuske. Town Board Liaison: Councilman Scott Chin. Visitors: Jim Baker, George Baum.

Chairperson Beth Herr called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM.

1. Committee reports

Outreach Communication Committee

Kent CAC Facebook page

Chair Beth Herr reported that there are currently 116 individuals reading the Facebook page.

Mount Nimham Fire Tower Facebook page

Bill Volckmann, who manages that Facebook page, stated he plans to post photos from the volunteer work day soon.

Kent Nature Almanac (KNA)

Dave Ehnebuske reported that since his last report in June, three new individuals requested subscriptions to the KNA.

Bill Buck asked whether it might be possible to make issues of the KNA available to the public through the Kent Public Library. Beth said she would pursue the possibilities with Library Director Carol Donick.

Mount Nimham Fire Tower Committee

Volunteer work day report

Bill V. said that there were 6 volunteers who contributed 6 hours of service. They completed the following: removed the trash in the lower parking area; engaged in a wide trash sweep and cleanup around the fire tower and mountain top; removed graffiti on the green Kent CAC sign; painted the footers and stoop and lower part of the fire tower; painted the cabin interior walls and floors as well as the exterior walls; covered graffiti on most spots of the structure on the way up and down the fire tower; and cleaned up the paint tools and equipment at Bill's house. That took another 1.5 hours. Beth said she would get the list of volunteers to recording secretary Jean Ehnebuske at some point.

Bill V. said the next step regarding graffiti removal would be trying out another product on the rocks. The product is called Taginator and sells for about \$80/gallon.

Landing replacement plan

Bill V. reported that David Tomkins, the carpenter who volunteered his services on replacing the tower floor, has moved to California. The CAC will probably need to find someone else to help work with our volunteers on replacing the landings.

There was discussion about the best time for scheduling the project. Monday, August 30 to Friday, September 2 was suggested, with the start time at 8 to 8:30 AM.

The first step is getting the TRPs (Temporary Revocable Permits) that are required before any work can begin. Also, the CAC needs to get permission from the DEC's Jeff Wiegert to close the fire tower for a week. Bill V. will handle this. He will also ask Jeff to provide signs he can post on/near the premises indicating the fire tower is closed and to post a notice on the DEC website about the temporary closing. Bill estimates that the actual time to complete the landings would be two days or perhaps a little longer. George Baum said that although he would be out of town, he would be happy to loan the CAC his small generator.

Bill said the area would need to be brush-mowed sometime in the week prior to construction.

New and replacement name plates

The CAC needs to replace nameplates that are missing or damaged. These were purchased by donors for the fundraiser for the fire tower restoration ten years ago. In addition, there are eight additional places on the fire tower that nameplates could be displayed: on the stairs, landings and railings. These nameplates could be sold for \$500 each. Twelve to fifteen characters can fit on each nameplate. Dave has talked to John, an individual at the business that did the original work, and learned that ten years ago, the cost of each nameplate purchased by PLAN Kent was \$20.00. The 8 additional nameplates could be purchased from him. Dave said that interested individuals should talk to him. Beth said that a press release is planned. Councilman Chin said he would announce the project at the meeting of the Kent Town Board this coming Tuesday, July 26.

2. Report from Kent Conservation Foundation

Please see the minutes from the June 15 board meeting. That document is attached to these minutes.

3. Chairperson's report

Correspondence

Beth received information that the Clearpool Education Center is now open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays from 8 AM to 4 PM. There are over 5 miles of hiking trails. A downloadable map is on Clearpool's website at [http://clearpool.greenchimneys.org/documents/Clearpool Campus Trail Map for web.pdf](http://clearpool.greenchimneys.org/documents/Clearpool%20Campus%20Trail%20Map%20for%20web.pdf).

Presentation to Kent Town Board

In their presentation to the Kent Town Board on Tuesday, June 28, Beth and Dave talked about the hikes, programs and activities the CAC has completed this calendar year and what it plans to accomplish in the near future. The report is attached.

4. Hikes and programs

Star Party

The Star Party hosted by the CAC will be held on Saturday, August 13, at 8:30 PM on the green at the Kent Town Center. The rain date is scheduled for Saturday, September 10, at 7:30 PM. All ages are welcome. Participants should bring a blanket and a flashlight. The Westchester Amateur Astronomers will provide telescopes and also tell stories. The chair announced that she could use some volunteers to set up some barricades and welcome and direct participants to the area designated for viewing.

Stream testing for water quality

On Saturday, August 13, at 11 AM, members of the public are invited to join CAC members in collecting samples of water draining from Seven Hills Lake into the West Branch of the Croton River. Be prepared to get wet feet and find some interesting creatures with amazing adaptations. It's a chance for participants to learn about how stream assessments are done and how organisms indicate differences in water quality. Samples will be sent to the the NYSDEC who will evaluate them and return the results to us as part of their WAVE program—Water Assessments by Volunteer Evaluators. Meet at the at the corner of Route 301 and East Boyd's Road just before 11 AM.

5. Environmental Leaders Learning Alliance (ELLA)

No report.

6. Clearpool Model Forest

Please see information under Chairperson's report, above.

7. Other

Beth mentioned that she would like to convene an open forum in late fall or early spring on lake water

management. The forum could possibly be held in the Kent Town Hall. She will begin researching and collecting names and contact information for knowledgeable and experienced presenters.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

The CAC does not meet in the month of August. **The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Kent CAC will be at 7 PM on Wednesday, September 21, 2016, at the Kent Town Hall.** As always, all meetings of the Kent CAC are open to the public.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Ehnebuske,
ex-officio recording secretary

Kent Conservation Foundation Inc
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
July 20, 2016

Attendees: Directors present: George Baum, Dave Ehnebuske, Jean Ehnebuske, Beth Herr, Phil Tolmach, Bill Volckmann. Directors absent: None. Visitors: Kent resident Jim Baker, Councilman Scott Chin.

1. President Dave Ehnebuske called the meeting to order at 8:35 PM.

2. Review and approve minutes of June 15 board meeting.

Dave asked if there were any corrections or changes. Hearing none, he called for a motion. Beth Herr so moved, and George Baum seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

3. Review and approve the treasurer's report.

There was no report from Phil, so there was no document to approve. It was estimated that the KCF has approximately \$3,000 in its account. There was agreement that the KCF should take a look at typical costs over a year.

4. Review open action items.

Bill: Contact David Tomkins to see if he would be interested in helping to replace the landings.
Done. Bill learned that David has moved to California.

All: Make plan to replace wooden landings.

Rough plans for proceeding are in place. (For details, see minutes for the CAC meeting just prior to this one.) Since David has moved out of the area, we may need to find some other experienced carpenter to help our volunteers. There was discussion about the need to decide whether we should contract out some of the work. Some of it may be too dangerous for unskilled, or even skilled, workers.

Bill: Contact Jeff Wiegert to secure a Temporary Revocable Permit (TRP) from the DEC and find out about any other paperwork or requirements that may be necessary.
Not yet done.

Dave: Contact the business that made the nameplates ten years ago.

Done. He called the business and talked to John. Before submitting an order, though, Dave needs more information (e.g., how many nameplates to order, board approval regarding the cost of the nameplates for the KCF and the selling price for donors, etc.).

Beth: Contact Bill Nulk at the Carmel/Kent Chamber of Commerce and Jennifer Maher at the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce about giving the CAC and KCF presentations there.
Not yet done.

Beth: Work with Anne Balant-Campbell on finding out what the protocol is for presenting to the Gypsy Trail Club.

Done. Beth reported that she has contact information for possible donors in the Gypsy Trail Club.

Dave: Make draft painting schedule for the fire tower.

Not yet done.

5. Old business

Phil was absent for the June 15 meeting, so at this meeting he reimbursed Dave for his costs for creating and printing the map posted in the kiosk at the end of Whangtown Road. Among other features, the map shows the path/s hikers should take to get to Mead Farm and Hawk Rock.

It was decided that the KCF would temporarily drop finding additional venues for presentations about the CAC and KCF (“The Nature of Kent”).

6. New business

Dave called for a motion for Phil to pay Mark Day for the tower inspection and his report.

The motion to pay Mark Day was made by Beth and seconded by Phil. There was no discussion. It passed unanimously.

Dave thanked Phil for finding Mark Day, commenting that things worked out very well with him.

Dave called for a motion to reimburse Bill Volckmann for recent costs of \$136.66 at Home Depot. Beth made the motion and Phil seconded it. It passed unanimously.

Set the date for next board of directors meeting.

It was determined that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 21, directly following the CAC meeting.

Other

No other topics were introduced.

7. Adjourn meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM with a motion made by Dave and a second made by Phil. It passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Ehnebuske, Secretary

KCAC Town Board Report - June 28, 2016

Programs:

Fall Foliage Walk

New Year's Day Hike

Winterfest Kent Discover the Kent Town Center's Backyard—Nature in Winter

Woodcock Walk

The Nature of Kent (at Kent Library)

Wildflower Walk

Hike to Hawk Rock

Kent Nature Almanac Photo Competition and Exhibit

Photo Exhibit Town Hall

Upcoming: Star Party, Saturday August 13, cloud date, September 10?

Eagle Scout Projects

Complete Hawk Rock Trail, kiosk, brochure (KCAC installed metal map)

Begin wetland boardwalk

Training/Conferences

NYSCAC Annual Conference

Natural Resource Inventories, Hudson River Estuary Biodiversity Program

Water Assessments by Volunteer Evaluators, NYSDEC

Toured Lake Tibet Forestry Project, NYCDEP

Committees:

Environmental Learning Leaders Alliance

Clearpool Model Forest

*attended Put Co legislative committee
to support discussion to
reduce plastic bags*

Fire Tower:

10th Anniversary Festival

Never-ending trash removal

Spring cleanup

Repaired floor, railing

Painted portions of the tower

Sealed C.C.C. "cornerstone"

Engineer's report

Upcoming: Replace fire tower landings, replace vandalized nametags, paint exterior

Outreach:

Facebook

Almanac

Presentation to Carmel Rotary

Kent Conservation Foundation

Engineer's report on the Mount Nimham Fire Tower

KCAC Town Board Report - June 28, 2016

Create metal map for Hawk Rock Trail kiosk