

Public Meeting
Kent Conservation Advisory Committee
April 19, 2017, 7:00 pm
Kent Town Hall

Attendees: Anne Balant-Campbell, Bill Buck, Beth Herr, Phil Tolmach, Bill Volckmann

The committee asked that the minutes include our reflections on Jean Ehnebuske. As a “guest” of the committee for over a decade, Jean contributed as a stellar volunteer, an incredible editor, and a visionary thinker. Her service to the library as a “mover and shaker” and board member were also noted.

1. Chair’s report

- Beth Herr, KCAC Chair, met with the town supervisor, Maureen Fleming, and the Town’s environmental consultant, Bruce Barber, on March 17, 2017. They discussed the status of the new organization of lake association representatives. A Clean Lakes Forum will be held in the fall. Mr. Barber could be the keynote speaker and facilitator for his event.
- The NYS Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA) Annual Conference will be held on May 5-6, 2017 at White Eagle Conference Center in Hamilton, NY. The topic will be “Lake Ecology and Human Impacts.” <http://nysfola.mylaketown.com/home>
- For Kent Clean Up Day on April 22, citizens are encouraged to adopt a lake for cleanup. The town is seeking large turn-out. The event is being promoted by the Town of Kent beautification committee, which is chaired by Pat Madigan of the Cornell Cooperative Extension. <http://www.townofkentny.gov/beautification-committee>. Members of Gypsy trail plan to participate, among others. Bags, vests, and gloves will be available for pick-up at Kent Police. Beth will post information about this event on the KCAC facebook page.
- The chair announced several events being hosted by the Cornell Cooperative Extension:
 - Spring Plant Sale, May 20
 - Make a Rain Barrel Workshop, June 10, Patterson Environmental Park – FREE
 - several Invasive Plant walks
 - Seed to Supper program

2. Committee Reports

a. Communications and Outreach:

- People are noticing the postings on the Facebook:
 - Views of the posting about the plant sale: 193
 - Nature Almanac: over 100
 - Woodcock walk: over 40.
- The page appears to be an effective way to let people know what we do. We may want to submit postings more often.
- The Mt. Ninham Facebook page has had very little activity of late.

- Anne will format the February/March nature Almanac so a copy can be printed and archived at the Kent Library.
 - The KCAC website will be discussed at the next meeting, when webmaster Dave Ehnebuske is present.
- b. Fire Tower Committee:
- Bill Volckmann spent 5.5 hours doing a spring trash cleanup at the tower last week. There was more activity than usual last week because schools are on spring break.
 - The tower is due for cleanup and painting.
 - Cleanup: Usually there's a dry day before the leaves come out that would be ideal for picking up trash in the environs of tower. Bill V. has been doing it solo but wouldn't mind help. Day and time TBA.
 - The committee discussed posting a sign to try to increase awareness (e.g., "Look how much trash you left behind last month.") The main concern is debris such as electronics as well as bottles, cans, etc. Biodegradable debris is less of an issue.
 - Bill V. met with the new DEC forester Matt Paul, who is now responsible for NYS DEC multiple use properties East of the Hudson River and has replaced Barbara Lucas-Wilson for this same position. Bill also met up with the Manager of NYS DEC Region 3 operations, Cindy, whose crew takes care of parking lot and building maintenance in different Multiple Use areas.
 - Bill V. also has tried to get a quote for removal of graffiti from the boulders. There does not seem to be a company offering this service in the area. Companies in Hawthorne and Bedford that Bill has contacted have not followed through with quotes.
 - Painting: The previous paint job was done by Califrio painting, which is now out of business. Bill V. met with a local professional painter, George Apap. He was surprised that the previous paint job has lasted 10-12 years. Epoxy paint might be better but it is not UV-resistant. He would want to use a truck with a 120-ft boom with stability per OSHA regulations. He would prefer to do the job in one long summer day with light winds, starting at sunrise and ending before dusk. His estimate is \$ 15,000 - \$20,000. The KCAC may seek a second estimate. The work will be done in 2018. Volunteers cannot complete the work because of insurance regulations.
3. Plan for replacing the landings: This will be done by volunteers. Matt Paul will work with Bill V. to put an announcement on the website and set up fencing to close the tower. He may also provide supplies.
- c. Report from Kent Conservation Foundation.

A press release about the replacement of the landings would be an opportunity to gain publicity for the need raise funds to paint the tower. It was suggested that fundraising might be enhanced via a "GoFundMe" page on Facebook.

- d. Hikes and programs

- The woodcock walk on Cornwall Hill Rd. on April 1, 2017, was highly successful, as it was well attended both by human participants (12-14) and by the woodcocks, which were flying close by and observed by all. There were several participants who had not attended a prior KCAC event.
- Kent Cleanup Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 22, 9am-1pm. Volunteers may pick up bags and vests at the Kent Police department.
- We are planning monthly hikes/programs with a focus on water:
 - The Hawk Rock hike on May 21, 2017 at 11:00 AM will take the trail along the Horsepound Brook.
 - The “Water Worlds of White Pond” hike will be Saturday, June 17, 11am
 - On Saturday, July 15, at 11:00 AM there will be a program “Testing the Waters,” at the outlet of Seven Hills lake by Clearpool.
 - A children’s program with a focus on water, “Water Wonders for Kids,” is being planned for Kent Library, to be held during July or August

e. Environmental Leaders Learning Alliance (ELLA)

No events at present; the program Invasive Forest Pests was scheduled but has been canceled.

3. Clearpool Model Forest

- Cornell Cooperative Extension hosted an introduction course on the Shiitake Farm Viability Project on March 10-11, with 200 attendees.
- An invasive plant identification hike will be held at Clearpool on Saturday, May 13. They are adding signs that inform visitors about best management practices.
- Hemlock Project: high-school-aged residential campers will be studying the wooly adelgids on the hemlocks. They will not be looking at elongate scale.
- The Watershed Agricultural Council, a NYCDEP program, will install educational signs about best management practices along trails.
- Clearpool will host the New York State Outdoor Educators Association Conference October 26-29. This involves four days of workshops with hikes at the beginning and end. Planning for this event is underway. Chair Beth Herr will lead hikes including a canoe trip into the Great Swamp.

7. Other

The next meeting of the Kent CAC will be at 7pm on Wednesday, May 17, at the Kent Town Hall, 25 Sybil’s Crossing, Kent Lakes, New York. All meetings of the Kent CAC are open to the public.