

Public Meeting
Kent Conservation Advisory Committee
June 21, 2017, 7pm
Kent Town Hall
Minutes

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

1. Chair's report

- A meeting of the Kent Lakes Council was held on June 3, 2017. The meeting was facilitated by Bruce Barber, who gave a presentation and provided an informational brochure. There were 12 attendees, including a representative from South Lake, which had not been represented at previous meetings. The consensus was that the participants are facing similar issues and have similar needs, and therefore would benefit from meeting on an ongoing basis. The group agreed to meet at the Kent Town Hall on the third Saturday of every month starting July 15, 2017.
- In view of this ongoing activity, the Clean Lakes forum that the KCAC had considered organizing does not seem to be needed; its intended purposes are already being accomplished via the Lakes Council meetings. One or more KCAC members should continue to attend the Lakes Council meetings.
- The KCAC might instead have a forum on emerging technologies for waste management, because septic system issues have an impact on lake health. Anne will ask a local restaurant-owner about the system he had installed. The NYCDEP still has a program for assisting homeowners with repair or replacement of failing systems. This information might be useful to discuss at the next Kent Lakes Council meeting.
- Members of the Lakes Council seemed quite interested in the WAVE (Water Assessment by Volunteer Evaluators) program, which is designed to monitor water quality in streams via assessment of the invertebrate species present. There is interest in learning the WAVE protocol and testing the streams associated with lakes in the town. The KCAC could provide the training for WAVE as a public workshop. There is also interest in chemical testing and/or the use of Secchi disks. The Westchester Lake Association might be a resource for information about chemical testing for of water quality of lakes.
- At the meeting, alga problems were discussed. Not all of the lakes are having problems with blue-green algae, which seems to bloom when there is a paucity of weed growth. The weeds take up phosphorous. If weeds are removed, phosphorus levels will rise, promoting alga growth. Some of the lakes have excess weed growth and are not experiencing alga problems.
- Some of the representatives who had attended the previous meeting have set up a fishing derby for Lake Carmel for June 24, 2017. The town has hired someone to help Bruce Barber write grants to buy equipment to monitor lakes. Beth informed them about the DEC grants that were discussed at the KCAC meeting of 19May2017.

2. Committee reports

- Outreach Communication Committee

- The Kent CAC Facebook page now has 211 followers. A new page photo received 38 views when changed page photo. The photos of the fire tower cleanup had 150 views, and a lot of people viewed the posting with photos of slugs.
- The Mount Nimham Fire Tower Facebook page has over 150 “likes” (it is not set up for followers). Bill Volckmann put up postings about the fire-tower cleanup, with photos from that event, as well as information about the arson problem at the fire tower.
- At the DEC meeting last month, the spelling of Mount Ninham on the DEC website (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/34773.html>) was corrected to read “Nimham” rather than “Ninham.” However, road signs, etc., have yet to be updated.
- A lot of entries and some wonderful photos are being submitted for the Kent Nature Almanac, including some from new people. Beth has ordered an archival volume to house the printed formatted copies of the almanac.
- There is a new website and facebook page, hikethehudsonvalley.com, which is another place for that the KCAC can post hikes, walks, etc.
- Kentcac.info and subscription lists: The Kent Nature Almanac has over 160 subscribers and is still getting positive feedback.
- Fire Tower Committee
 - The Spring Cleanup on June 10, 2017 involved five volunteers, 29.5 hours of labor, 128 volunteer-driven miles, and four gallons of paint. The crew painted footings and the cabin, and covered over graffiti. The paint for the cabin was donated by Wallauers. The volunteer crew was mostly KCAC members. A press release was not written about this event.
 - The possibility of holding a music festival at the tower was discussed.
 - Bill Volckmann talked with George Apap again about obtaining a formal quote for painting the tower. The estimate is about \$30,000. Bill met another painting contractor while up on the tower and will get an estimate. It might be possible to check Craig’s list or home adviser sites to look for contractors. Large contracting companies that paint bridges, etc. are costly and not interested in such a small job.
- Kent Conservation Foundation report
 - More donations have come in. The KCF has enough money to keep going for now but needs to start fund raising.. It would be best to have funds to complete the entire painting job at one time. The KCF should have reasonably accurate estimates soon from these contractors and will be able to plan a fund-raising campaign. The KCF will discuss strategies including press releases, social media. etc.
 - Dave has written to Lori DiLorenzo of DEP about the trees that need to be cut at the stone chambers on Mead Farm. She is working on getting permission. He sent photos and a rationale. The KCF can take on other projects in the town, including Mead Farm, if they require financial support.

3. Hikes and programs

- Hike the Horsepound Brook to Hawk Rock in May 21, 2017 had a good turnout with some new people.

- Nature Detectives program at the Kent Library, July 6, 13, 20, 27 for 8-10 year olds: Registration is about to begin. The program will be focused towards creating a nature trail in the woods adjacent to the library. The KCF or Town might be instrumental in creating signage for the trail.
 - Nature Detectives Trail Hike, Saturday, July 29, 2017 at 11:00 AM, but may be rescheduled due to a conflict with the 4H fair. The next option would be August 19, 2017.
 - WAVE water sampling program is on hold pending consultation with the Lakes Council about the schedule (see above).
4. Environmental Leaders Learning Alliance (ELLA): no news
 5. Clearpool Model Forest: no news
 6. Other
 - Plastic bag ban: Beth Herr discussed the results of a survey of constituents by State Assembly Representative Sandy Galef. Most respondents want to do something about the problems, but there is not agreement on the best solution. A fee was favored by 27% of respondents, while 30% favored a ban on single-use plastic bags. Bill Buck commented on the vast amount of plastic being recycled at the KRC each week.
 - Planning board meeting: One member quit two months ago. Another vacancy has just been filled.
 - Bill Volckmann went to a Clearwater event last week. Two weeks ago, he attended the first meeting of series re the closing of the Indian Point nuclear reactor. Officials from multiple levels were present. A nuclear physicist provided information about the toxicity of nuclear waste. Concerns about job loss were expressed. Next series will be in August and September.

Meeting adjourned 8:10 PM. Next meeting will be July 19, 2017, 7:00 PM, Kent Town Hall.