

Public Meeting
Kent Conservation Advisory Committee
February 21, 2018, 7PM
Kent Town Hall

Minutes

Attendees: Bill Buck, Anne Balant Campbell, Dave Ehnebuske, and Bill Volckmann

Guest: Richard Othmer, Town of Kent Highway Superintendent

1. New Business:

Discussion with Guest Richard Othmer about the use of salt on the roads, and alternatives to minimize the impact on the environment. The department uses a mixture of 50% salt and 50% sand. It does not have the equipment needed to apply brine solution. The solution only works if the pavement temperature is above 26 degrees F. The highway superintendent in Carmel, Mike Simone, has a mixing tank for brine. Twenty percent of salt bounces off the road. The salt can be treated with beet juice, which can result in the use of less salt and reduce the amount going into watershed. More effective plowing also reduces the need for salt. The department is using new plow blades that bend and conform more closely to the road surface. Another approach is to use a double blade. The department has replaced large trucks with smaller, less expensive 2.5-ton trucks with strong differentials. These smaller vehicles are efficient for the narrow roads in the town. A calibration procedure may be used to prevent overfilling of trucks, a common cause of excess material piling up on the roads. Mr. Othmer expressed an interest in meeting with Fred Penna, Putnam County Commissioner of highways. The KCAC will provide letter to Mr. Othmer, with cc to the Town Board, encouraging him to pursue technological options to reduce salt usage. Bill Buck will draft the letter.

B. Minutes of January 12, 2018 were approved pending addition of details about replacement of the fire-tower landings.

C. Committee reports

- Outreach Committee
 - No updates on the Kent CAC Facebook page and the Mount Nimham Fire Tower Facebook
 - Kent Nature Almanac continues to be well-received
 - Kentcac.info is getting 2-6 visits per day
- Fire Tower Committee

- The Digital Visitor Log Book is ready, and stainless steel signs with the QR code have been made
- Bill Volckmann has submitted the renewal of our NYSDEC Stewardship Agreement, with the Kent Conservation Foundation rather than the KCAC as the originator
- The KCF is working on deciding on a communication strategy for fund-raising.

D. Kent Conservation Foundation report

- Applications for the NYS Parks and Trails Grant are being reviewed starting this month. Bill Volckmann will log in to verify that the application is complete, and that tax-exempt status has been documented properly.
- The KCAC provided suggestions for a fundraising announcement.
-

E. Hikes and programs for 2018: details to be finalized at next meeting

- Woodcocks and Moonlight, March 31, 7:30 PM
- Kent Clean Up Day, April, date tbd by town, might want to do a clean-up around a lake e.g., White Pond.
- Hawk Rock Hike, May
- Night of Fireflies at Town Center, June
- Butterfly Ramble, July
- Lakes Forum, Sept.
- Mt. Nimham Hike, Oct

F. New business

- Renewal of DEP 5-year Horsepound Unit (Hawk Rock) permit
 - Met with Matt Castro in the Land Use division. (The KCAC also deals with Lori DiLorenzo in the Operations division. Matt Castro has suggestions re trail maintenance, including water bars to prevent erosion on trail. He will send us his recommendations, to be discussed at the next meeting. The KCAC annual report will go to both divisions from now on.
 - The KCAC needs to provide proof of liability coverage from the Town in the DEP report. The current proof has expired. Beth is working on getting an update.
- Kent Lakes Committee, meeting January 20 – no report
- Blue-Green Algae Information Session, January 23. Bill Volckmann attended this meeting. We don't know what is causing the algae blooms, which are a tremendous problem all over the globe. Human waste from sewage and septic systems is probably the key factor. Experiments are underway to try to understand the influx of nutrients and other substances from other sources such as road run-off. Education and awareness are paramount. The Kent Lakes committee is trying to educate

the community re the importance of the septic inspection program. At the meeting, this was also discussed at county level. Remote lakes in Adirondacks, miles from roadway, also have blooms, which sometimes include toxic "cyano" components.

-

- Report on Bedford 2020 Summit, February 3 postponed until next meet

G. Chair's report

- 2017 Annual Reports to town, DEC, and DEP have all been completed and submitted
- Next Model Forest meeting will be in March

The next meeting of the Kent CAC will be at 7pm on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, at the Kent Town Hall, 25 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes, New York. All meetings of the Kent CAC are open to the public.