

Public Meeting

Kent Conservation Advisory Committee

September 19, 2018, 7 PM

Kent Town Hall

Minutes

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

1. Minutes of the meeting of July 18, 2018 were approved.
2. Outreach Committee reports
 - The August Kent Nature Almanac was sent out on time and was posted on the Facebook page
 - The Kentcac.info website had about 105 visitors this month, mostly around September 8
 - The Facebook pages had about 50 visitors, mostly in response to the posting of the nature almanac
3. Hawk Rock/Mead Farm Property
 - Storm cleanup was done on July 21, with the help of three volunteers plus KCAC members. However, there are four or five large trees down along the part of Washington Rd. that meets up with Whangtown Rd. that still need to be removed. This will require a larger chainsaw than what was available that day.
4. Kent Conservation Foundation report
 - Mt. Nimham Fire Tower report was tabled due to Bill Volckmann's absence
 - The deadline for grant applications to the NY Parks and Trails partnership (www.ptny.org) is Nov 30. Bill Volckmann has a copy of a prior application that he can provide as a template, along with feedback from the organization, to plan next submission. Bill Buck offered to help prepare the application.
 - Payments of \$275.00 have been received from the families of the young men who were arrested for graffiti activity at the fire tower. The funds make restitution for the cost of the supplies used to ameliorate the damage.
5. Hikes and programs
 - Mount Nimham Hike: moved to Saturday, October 20 1:00 PM
6. Chair's report
 - Dave Ehnebuske announced his resignation from the KCAC after 10 years of service, due to a planned move to Washington State. His letter of resignation will be sent to the Town Board. He will continue to manage the webpage, almanac, and IT resources for the KCAC for now. The CAC runs on a server that's easy to transfer to someone else. The KCF site will be more complex to transfer
 - Kent Lakes Committee meetings were held on July 21 and Sept. 22. Lake Carmel water quality was not high this summer. Algal control with peroxide proved to be more effective than ultrasound treatment, but there was not a major difference.

- Testing via CSLAP (Citizen Science Lake Assessment Protocol) for “blue-green algae”(cyanobacteria that cause rashes, respiratory problems, etc.) is ongoing. The harmful algae were found in columnar samples from Lake Carmel, but not on the surface. Phosphate and warmth promote growth of harmful green algae. The number of lakes in NYS that have it has increased from 50 to over 300.
- The Lake Carmel Dam project is moving forward. This 3-million dollar repair is being funded by the Town of Kent. The DEP East of Hudson organization will pay for repairing and planting the ditch by the dam. The DEP has written an 8-million dollar grant to repair storm drains and sewers by the lake but no matching funds are forthcoming from the town. Bruce Barber, the Town Environmental Consultant, has been inspecting storm drains in the town and working to raise awareness about septic systems.
- The next meeting of the Clearpool Model Forest will be September 24. There is a new director at Green Chimneys and new assistant principal at Clearpool. The model forest was open over the summer. The presence of hikers raised concerns about the safety and security of children participating in camp programs. The founders’ vision is that Clearpool should be open to all, so a compromise will be worked out. There seem to be some new program ideas and some new staff. They have inquired about attending KCAC meetings.
- Cornell Coop Extension has some fabulous programs pending and will do some outreach. Their staff plan to attend the lake committee meetings and offer programs on shoreline buffer plants. They have released a parasite to fight the Lily Leaf Beetle.
- Beth had contacted a member of Prism, Jennifer Lerner of Cornell about the water chestnuts at Veteran’s Park. She has contacted the Linsey Yodel of Prism and Clearwater Aquatic Plant Specialist. They will come and eliminate it next spring when it reemerges. The possibility that emptying of water tanks of fire trucks into the lake might spread invasive species was raised. Beth will discuss this with Chris Ruthven, deputy commissioner of Parks for Kent. The vector could also have been birds.
- There now is invasive hydrilla at Lake Tibet

7. Other

- NYCDEP Recreational Rules Update
- Dave attended a meeting at the county EOC auditorium about changes to some of the land use rules. The rules pertain to boat storage and numbers of boats permitted.
- Beth needs contact information and a copy of our DEP Mead Farm permit.
- Green Living/Coupon Chief Correspondence will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Some residents are complaining that Putnam County’s drinking water quality is low. It is unclear how widespread the problem is. Lake Carmel needs a water and sewer system.
- The new Hudson Valley Natural Resource Mapper program provides a lot of detail about the Town of Kent, but shows everything but open space. The recording of the

webinar about how to use the mapper tools has been posted on at
www.dec.ny.gov/lands/112137.html