

Public Meeting
Kent Conservation Advisory Committee
November 28, 2018, 7 PM
Minutes

Attendees: Anne Balant-Campbell, Bill Buck, Beth Herr (Chair), and Phil Tolmach.

The minutes of Oct 18th, 2018 were approved.

Outreach Committee

The next edition of the Kent Nature Almanac will be completed soon. kentcac.info statistics are pending. KCAC volunteer and former member Dave Ehnebuske will forward them. The KCAC Facebook Pages currently has about 260 followers, and a recent posting was “liked” and/or shared 40 times.

Kent Conservation Foundation

Bill Buck and Beth Herr cleaned up trash at the Mt. Nimham Fire Tower, but were unable to unlock the gate to bring up a vehicle to remove the bagged trash, which therefore had to be carried down the mountain,

The grant proposal to NYDEC Parks and Trails is on hold until next year because key information needed to complete the application could not be obtained in time to meet the deadline.

Beth has drafted a letter to Town of Kent Supervisor Maureen Fleming about the problem with the key, and about the need to advertise for potential new appointees to the KCAC, which is down from seven members to five. It might be beneficial to have a meeting with Kenneth Clair, the Putnam County Commissioner of Emergency Services, and with representatives of related groups such as PEARL (Putnam Emergency Amateur Repeater League) and the mountain biking group.

During a recent cleanup, new graffiti was found on the big rock by the gate, but there was a moderate amount of trash relative to previous cleanups.

Discussion of the Hawk Rock Trail and a second storm cleanup at Mead Farm following the May 15, 2018 tornado) was deferred due to Bill Volckmann’s absence.

Hikes and programs

The notices for the “Walk-off-the Turkey hike” were not posted, so it will be held on New Year’s Day, Tues Jan 1, 1:00 PM at Mt. Nimham.

Chair's report

- The Kent Lakes Committee meeting was held October 20. Please see attached minutes. A key issue is that if the group is to be able obtain grant funding, it may have to become a town-appointed committee rather than remaining as an independent group. This would require a change to the Town Code. The group is waiting for decision from the Town re whether or not they can have a Facebook page. Bruce Barber, the Town of Kent Environmental Consultant, has been approved to facilitate the group for one more year (2019)

Beth has sent a memo to own of Kent Supervisor Maureen Fleming on the following topics:

- Request to call for volunteers to join the KCAC, which is now short be two members from its full complement of seven members.
- Requested contact information for the town webmaster to that the KCAC website may updated.
- Notified the town about the Pollinator-Friendly Solar Act, A08083A/S06339A.

Other

Kent Town Board member Bill Heustis is interested in having more trees planted in the town e.g., at the parks.

Beth will attend next meeting of Town if Kent Beautification committee on Dec. 8. 2018. Phil is willing to advise the committee. The committee might consider participating in "Trees for Tribs" <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/43668.html> a program the provides seedlings of native tree species and tubes to protect them. It's administered by the NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Biodiversity Program, with the goal of preventing erosion along tributaries in the watershed.

Lindsay Yoder of the DEC PRISM program (Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management) wants to make a plan to eliminate the water chestnut (invasive) from the edges of the lake at Veterans Memorial Park that was identified last fall. The KCAC can help but the effort must be coordinated with the county.

Beth has sent an email to Town Board member Chris Ruthven, who is also Putnam County Deputy Commissioner of Parks, asking if he might be willing to attend KCAC meetings as liaison to the Town Board.

A letter has been received from former KCAC chair George Baum suggesting that the Town of Kent become a "climate smart" community (<https://climatesmart.ny.gov/>)

Beth will get info about this NYS program to the KCAC for discussion at the next meeting.

The Putnam County Legislature is considering a ban on “Styrofoam” food packaging. A ban of plastic bags has also been under discussion. The KCAC may want to encourage the district 3 legislator and/or the Kent Town Board to support these proposals.

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 16, 7:00 PM at the Kent Town Hall