

Town of Kent Conservation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2019

Meeting Open - 7:00PM

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

Guests: (none present)

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes for January 16, 2019 meeting were approved.

Updates on Kent Lake Association

- Lakes forum - Possible dates to hold forum still being discussed
- Kent Lakes Council is working on draft proposal to Town of Kent Town Board to form the current, informal Kent Lakes Council into an official Town Committee

Town of Kent Clean-up Day

- The Town of Kent Beautification committee continues to work on finalizing clean-up project locations and groups as well as develop notification to the community asking for volunteers to help keep our town beautiful.
- The date on which this annual Clean-up day project will be held is April 27, 2019 (the day after Earth Day)
- For 2018 Clean-up day our Town of Kent CAC committee members and community members worked together along White Pond Road picking up trash along with many larger items. For 2019 Clean-up day Town of Kent CAC will again focus on White Pond Road and possibly extend into Farmer's Mills Road, if sufficient volunteers are available at White Pond Road and depending on how fast pick-up goes.

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

- The next public meeting of the Town of Kent Beautification Committee meeting will be held at 8:45AM at the Town of Kent Town Hall on Saturday, March 02, 2019

Clearpool Model Forest - report and update

- The model forest at Green Chimney's Clearpool Education Center on Clearpool road remains ongoing as an example of a managed forest on private lands.
- Town of Kent CAC was asked to consider hosting a vendor participation table at the annual pancake breakfast at Clearpool Education center, to be held on Sunday, March 10, 2019 from 9AM to 1PM. CAC committee discussed hosting a table and are reviewing who may be available from the committee to participate in this event.
- Green Chimney's Clearpool Education Center next committee meeting March 4, 2019 at 6:30PM, runs until about 8:30PM.
- Additional information about the Clearpool Model Forest can be viewed at their web link, provided here for reference: <https://www.greenchimneys.org/community-programs-services/outdoor-education-activities/clearpool-model-forest/>

Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services

- Putnam County chairman responded to Beth Herr's inquiry regarding the gate to Nimham fire tower
- Key to gate has been resolved

Seeking Volunteers article

- Posted into (3) newspapers seeking volunteers to join Kent CAC
- No responses to date

Tree plantings

- Bill Huestis, Town of Kent Council member, has proposed tree plantings in memory of his mother
- Proposed to Kent Lakes Council and Kent Beautification committees
- National Arbor Day grant letter

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

- Grant letter discussed
- National Arbor Day has a grant available for not-for-profits for tree plantings
- Must be applied for by a not-for-profit
- Referred to Kent Conservation Foundation as KCAC is not eligible for this grant

Green space map

- Chris Ruthven has indicated he can obtain an updated GIS map from Putnam County GIS department and will provide to Beth Herr

Almanac

- Herr and Ehnebuske have been in communication about continuing and transferring knowledge of how this almanac has been put together
- D. Ehnebuske has moved and is no longer on the Kent CAC, however, he will continue to work on the almanac for now and will help with producing an almanac book to be posted in the Town of Kent library as well as work on knowledge transfer of processes D. Ehnebuske led for Kent CAC.

Facebook

- B. Herr has asked for help with admin work on Facebook KCAC page
- Discussion about hosting a “Picture of the week” on Facebook page

Kent Conservation Foundation report

- NYS DEC Volunteer Stewardship Agreement (VSA) was signed and formalized in February 2019
- The new NYS DEC VSA names The Kent Conservation Foundation (not-for-profit) as the VSA holder for the Nimham Mountain Fire Tower, which will allow the Kent Conservation Foundation to apply for grants, some of which mandate the VSA manager be a not-for-profit and not another municipal organization.

Update on Hawk Rock Trail

- Eagle Scout who created Hawk Rock Trail on NYC DEP land visited on recent break from college
- He realized that the trail cleanup re-opened the original road past the Mead farm site and he and helpers moved the Hawk Rock trail makers to the original road, rather than continue to have people blazing new paths through the forest

Nimham Mountain clean-up

- Each spring, before the forest leafs out, is a good time to seek litter left during the Winter months. A spring clean-up date will be scheduled for Monday, April 1, 2019 to bring volunteers together to help gather and dispose of litter along the roadway, trails and at top of the mountain.

Woodcock walk

- Chance to watch the woodcocks doing their spring dance to entice a mate on Saturday, March 30, 2019 at 7PM. Meet time is half hour before to sunset to allow time for the group to walk into the field before the woodcocks start flying for their evening dance.
- To be held at Great Swamp Wildlife Management area on Cornwall Road in Patterson, NY

Invasive plants at Putnam Veterans Memorial Park

- Invasive water chestnut plants were discovered in the lake at Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park in Summer 2018
- PRISM was contacted to investigate and assist with clean-up
- PRISM is planning to perform (2) water chestnut clean-up days
- Clean-up date #1 - June 22, 2019 (Saturday)
- Follow-up date - August 19, 2019 (Monday) to check on the clean-up work performed and ensure all invasive plants have been eradicated

NYS Flora Association

- Bill Buck to send out e-mail with the details on this planned hike at Ice Pond in Southeast, NY

H2H Hike (Hudson to Housatonic)

- Pollinator pathway - engage people to create pollinator gardens
- Meeting Tuesday, March 5, 2019, 1PM to 3PM at Grace Farms, 365 Lukes Wood Road, New Canaan, CT 06840
- RSVP to melemay.grb@gmail.com

Extreme Gardening mailing

- Spring Landscape Conference March 11, 2019, 8:30AM to 3PM to be held at Westchester Community College
- Native Plant Designs for resiliency

Climate Smart

- Program run by NYS to encourage “climate smart” communities
- To obtain certification by NYS Climate Smart program, municipalities must meet certain requirements
- Designation allows eligibility for grant funding and other aspects
- Must be pursued by Town Board

Planning Board update

- Patterson Crossings still pending development work

Update on animal tracking seminar and mountain lion lecture

- Hardy kiwi (fill in details on this invasive, include words from B. Buck and b. Herr on plantings they have worked on)
- Reports and documentation - include links

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

- Mountain lion - at least (1) mountain lion lives in or transits through the NY/Western CT area
- No evidence of lions reproducing in this Northeast area at this time

Meeting adjourned at 20:20