

**Kent Conservation Advisory Committee, Town of Kent**  
**Meeting Minutes, September 17, 2014**

**Attendees**

Committee members: Bill Buck, Dave Ehnebuske, Beth Herr, Phil Tolmach, Bill Volckmann. Visitors: George Baum, Jean Ehnebuske.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

**1. Chairperson's report**

New York State Association of Conservation Commissions (NYSACC) Conference

Chair Beth Herr stated that unfortunately she will not be able to attend the [NYSACC 2014 Conference on the Environment](#). It will be held in Binghamton between October 2-4. She encouraged other CAC members to attend if possible. Bill Volckmann said he would look into attending.

Meeting with Kent Town Supervisor Maureen Fleming

The Chair reported that she hopes to arrange a meeting with Supervisor Fleming very soon.

Article in *The New York Times*

The Chair referred to and passed around [an article](#) about the Town of Kent that appeared in *The New York Times* not long ago. She commented that part of the article focused on the abundance of water resources in our town and its importance to New York City's water supply.

"Woods Forum" at Clearpool Model Forest

Beth reported that she was invited to participate as a professional in a "[Woods Forum](#)" for landowners on September 16 at Clearpool Model Forest. CAC member Bill V. also attended. Sponsored by Green Chimneys in collaboration with the Watershed Agricultural Council and Cornell Cooperative Extension, the workshop gave landowners an opportunity to learn about options for what they might want to do with their land, meet local professionals in person, and hear about the experiences of other landowners. The Chair commented that among the attendees were local property owners from the other side of the Hudson River and from Dutchess County.

The Chair said she was delighted to meet some people from the Town of Kent that she had not met previously, and happy to hear "rave reviews" from them about the Kent Nature Almanac. She learned that one section of the KNA that people particularly like is the "Next month, watch for..." feature that appears at the end of each issue. She received requests from five people at the forum to be added to the subscription list for the KNA. She said it also turns out that many of the ToK people she met are subscribed to the agendas and minutes list so they can follow the activities of the CAC.

Other news from Clearpool Model Forest

Beth stated that Clearpool has recently hired three new educators. Also, she said that SUNY students worked this past summer at Clearpool to identify trees and shrubs on the campus.

She reported that a class, "[Firewood 101: Chainsaw Safety, Firewood Regulation & Tree Selection](#)," will be offered at Clearpool on Saturday, October 4, from 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM.

On November 11, Clearpool will be offering an all-day workshop for middle-school teachers and outdoor educators called "[Take It Outside](#)."

Native Plant Center Newsletter

The Chair passed around the Fall 2014 edition of [the newsletter](#) published by the Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College. She mentioned an article, "Learn How to Tackle Invasives," and said she hopes the CAC might consider hosting a session this spring for the Kent community about dealing with invasives. She added that she has received many questions on this topic.

Kent Community Day

The Chair said the CAC should probably plan to have a table at next year's Kent Community Day, typically held in early September.

## **2. Kentcac.info**

Dave Ehnebuske stated that in the last month, the CAC's website received 124 different distinct visitors, and that there were 400 different page views by those individuals.

He also reported that 66 individuals are currently subscribed to receive notices of CAC meeting agendas and minutes; 160 people are subscribed to the hikes list; and 128 are subscribed to the Kent Nature Almanac.

With the evident interest in the CAC's meeting agendas and minutes, it was suggested that to more effectively publicize that all CAC meetings are open to the public, a statement to that effect could be included in the notes that appear at the end of each agenda notice. George Baum suggested that the CAC meeting notices could also be published in the Kent Times/Press.

## **3. Kent Nature Almanac (KNA)**

Please see notes under "Woods Forum" in the Chairperson's report section above.

The Chair asked that CAC members please note their observations and submit them to her for the KNA during the time she has to be away from the area.

## **4. Natural Resource Inventory**

No report.

## **5. Hikes and trails**

Beth stated that "Mountaintop Ecology" would be the focus of the Fall Foliage Hike to Mount Nimham planned for Sunday, October 5, at 1 PM. The hike will be led by Diana Lee, a local ecologist. Bill V. volunteered to be the sweep.

## **6. Mount Nimham Fire Tower Committee**

### Floor

Bill V. reported that it seems clear that Bob McCarthy is too busy at this time to take on the flooring project. Among other things, Bob has just taken a new job as Director of Code Enforcement for the town of Patterson.

Bill V. said that on a recent trip to the fire tower, he met a man named David who was with some young people from the Gipsy Trail Club that he was teaching about mountain biking. David expressed a great and abiding interest in the fire tower and the surrounding area. It turns out that he is a general contractor. He said that if the materials can be provided, he would be happy to volunteer his time to put in the new floor. Bill V. reported that Drew Ryan at Gipsy Trail Club said David had done work for him at the Club and that he was "really good."

After some discussion, CAC members decided that Bill V. should approach David to see how to move ahead with the project. Bill V. agreed, and said he would let the DEC's Barbara Lucas-Wilson know that the CAC would need a TRP. Since David would be doing the job as a volunteer, there would be no need for him to produce paperwork regarding insurance.

### New sign

Dave reported that the new CAC sign is all set to be installed on the fire tower. He added that if one or two people meet at the fire tower to help, it would only take about an hour to get that job done.

George and Bill V. offered to help. Weather permitting, the work is scheduled for 2 PM on Tuesday, September 23.

### Not-for-profit corporation

Dave said that attorney (and Kent Town Councilman) Paul Denbaum is going to let him know who it is in his law firm that the CAC representatives should contact to set up a meeting. Dave reported that the IRS has greatly simplified the process of applying for 501(c)(3) status.

## **7. Other**

Phil Tolmach reported that he attended a half-day workshop on habitat identification at Teatown Lake Reservation last Saturday, September 13.

The Chair asked Phil if the Master Plan for the Town of Kent is online.

Phil reported that Patterson Crossing has asked for another extension.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

**The next meeting of the Kent CAC will be at 7 PM on Wednesday, October 15, at the Kent Town Hall.** All meetings of the Kent CAC are open to the public.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Ehnebuske,  
ex-officio recording secretary