

Town of Kent Conservation Advisory Committee
July 15, 2020
Minutes

Members: Bill Volckmann, Chair, Bill Buck, Anne B. Campbell

Guests: Chris Ruthven (Kent Town Board), Travis Hunt, Kellye Rosenheim, Pamela Wadler

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Minutes of the June 2020 meeting were approved

Chair's Report

- The KCAC has renewed its membership in NYS Association of Conservation Commissions (NYSACC) <https://nysacc.org>
- The NYS DEC Land Use 101 webinar series is highly recommended. The next webinar, Best Practices for Local Environmental Reviews, will be on 6/17/20. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5094.html#Training>
- Kent Lakes Association met June 20, 2020 by video conference call. The next meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2020 at 9 AM and will include a short walk around Lake Sagamore to review water sampling procedures.
- Reminder to watch for harmful algae blooms in local our lakes. Information and reporting page: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83310.html>
- The KCAC might help sponsor a photography contest at Arts on the Lake

KCAC Projects

Climate Smart Communities (CSC)

- Discussed when and how to invite representatives from other constituencies to participate. Chris agreed to approach members of the Chamber of Commerce and directors of some town departments.
- Anne will work with Bill B. on the How Green is my Town survey and set up a climate smart Facebook page

KCAC membership

Travis Hunt and Pamela Wadler expressed interest in joining the KCAC. Both were asked to submit their resume, letter of intent, and contact information to the town board.

Kent Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)

- Discussed possible funding opportunities for NRI. KCAC members met with Hudsonia and received a preliminary estimate of 30-40k. Bill B. will follow up to obtain a more detailed estimate.

- Chris offered to submit that estimate to the county Soil and Water Conservation board at its next meeting on July 22.
- The Kent Historical society will discuss the NRI at its next meeting.
- Bill also will contact Penny Osborne re native American involvements and content for NRI.

Kent Biodiversity Inventory

- Bill B. and former KCAC Chair Beth Herr are continuing their weekly fieldwork, most recently with assistance from Kelly Rosenheim of Gypsy Trail.
- Data on known species has been requested from NYS DEC to assist with survey, but this has been delayed because DEC is tasked with other activities, per Nate Nardi-Cyrus.

○

Other CAC projects

Highlands Trail / North Putnam Greenway trail project with NYNJ Trail Conference

- Bill V. and Gary Haughland explored Big Buck Mtn. to find a route from White Pond to Farmer's Mills Rd. to connect with other properties. Parcels on the east side of White Pond are now in the hands of the Nature Conservancy and will be annexed to the DEC Big Buck preserve. Public announcement from DEC is forthcoming.

Development Projects in Town of Kent

- The Town Board may need to extend the moratorium on mining as they have not had the opportunity to work on drafting a mining ordinance.

Kent CAC Hikes and Events

The Town of Kent CAC encourages all residents to get out and explore our wonderful outdoors while being responsible and maintaining a safe, social distance from other hikers during this 2019-COVID issue. There are many hiking trails available in this area where people can hike independently and enjoy time outdoors.

- Mushroom walk originally scheduled for Sunday, September 19, 2020 at Clearpool,. Bill V. will contact Matt Smetana; no leader is available from COMA for that date. Lou Tartaro indicated that a leader might be available for October, which would require a change of location.
- Astronomy night at Town Center is on hold due to Covid.
- The possibility of creating guided walks with recordings and/or e-brochures that could be viewed from a cell phone was discussed.

Social Media Outreach Report

Dave Ehenbuske is still managing the KCAC listserve. Bill V. may contact him to change this.

Kent Conservation Foundation Report

- NYS DEC has re-opened access to all NYS fire lookout towers
- Maintenance date to paint over graffiti painting and cut brush will be scheduled for a weekday morning in July.

Meeting adjourned 8:00 PM

Next meeting Weds. August 19 7:00 PM