

Town of Kent Conservation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2020

Meeting called to order – 7:10 PM

Attendees: Bill Volckmann, Chair, Bill Buck, Anne Campbell, Pamela Wadler. Guests: Liz Baird, Dave Ehnebuske, Beth Herr.

Minutes of the meeting of Sept. 16 were approved.

The meeting was dedicated to celebrating Beth Herr's community service, including her years on the KCAC as a member and chair.

The Highlands Trail project is seeking a way to connect a two-mile trail on NYS DEP land from Rte. 301 and Farmer's Mills Road to Huestis Park. New trails are being developed at Huestis Park by the Town of Kent Parks and Recreation department and the plan is to incorporate some of this trail into the Hudson Highlands trail. The NYS DEC has acquired two land-locked parcels linking Big Buck Mountain to White Pond from the Nature Conservancy and added those to the Big Buck Mountain multiple-use area.

Beth has seen five dead deer, apparently due to epizootic hemorrhagic disease. She will report this to the NYS DEC.

Beth Herr, Bill Buck and various volunteers have now catalogued over 500 species of plants and animals in the Kent Biodiversity Inventory. At one site, the Putnam County Land Trust's Rainaldi Respite Preserve on Pudding St., they noted that the driveway and parking area were covered with downed trees. A neighbor stopped them and told them that she would like to be the preserve steward. This information was forwarded to Judy Terlizzi, PCLT President.

The kiosk at the entrance to the DEP property on Whangtown Rd. was knocked down and damaged on 9/28/20. This trailhead kiosk was built as an Eagle Scout project by a local Boy Scout. After some discussions with the original builder and his family, they decided to have the broken kiosk delivered to their garage to be reconstructed with a more robust construction design as a continued Boy Scout project. Installation of the reconstructed kiosk will occur in the spring of 2021, in a location that is further removed from the parking area.

Kent Conservation Foundation Report

Work parties are permitted now. Several rounds of removal of graffiti from the rocks at the Nimham with the help of volunteer Drew Ryan have been successful. Bill V. and his daughter may work on painting the cabin in the near future.

Next meeting date Nov. 18 –@ 7:00PM