

# Town of Kent Conservation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes  
March 17, 2021 at 7 PM

Attendees: Bill Volckmann, Chair, Bill Buck, Anne B. Campbell, Pamela Wadler, Chris Ruthven - Kent Town Board.

Meeting called to order 7:15 PM

Approved minutes from February 2021 as amended.

## Chair's Report

- NYC DEP Horsepound Unit: Forest Management planning and possible new trail
  - Possible forest management plan covering NYC DEP properties located in the Town of Kent, awaiting further information from NYC DEP
  - Gypsy Trail Club has been maintaining existing trails that run from the Esptein Farm on Farmer's Mills Rd. to the end of Whangtown Rd. Extending that trail out to Schrade Rd. would be in line with the Highlands Trail plan. Anne will follow up with DEP.
- Review NYS DEC Land Use 101 webinar series
  - Reminder to look at all webinars put out by the NYS DEC at their Land Use 101 webinar web site: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5094.html#Training>
- Energy Choice programs in NYS
  - Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)
  - Community Choice Solar (not CCA)
  - New round of NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities funding
- Ampion Solar – A representative will talk with Bill V.
- Hudson River Valley Greenway Planning Grant program
  - Hudson River Valley Greenway is a “unique state agency created to preserve the scenic, natural, historic cultural and recreational resources of the Hudson Valley.” (from web site)
  - Review criteria
    - Putnam County is a Hudson Valley Greenway Compact County (see map)
    - NRI is a covered project
    - CAC Chair has e-mailed a set of questions to grant e-mail address
  - Review letter and application pdf files (attached)
  - Review Hudson River Valley Greenway website
    - <https://hudsongreenway.ny.gov/>
    - <https://hudsongreenway.ny.gov/grants-funding>

- NYSACC – New York State Association of Conservation Commissions
  - Latest newsletter from NYSACC available can be found at:
    - <https://nysacc.org/index.php/category/winter-2021/>
  - Communication seeking short articles from NYS CACs for next newsletter
  - This one covers a topic of “How To...”, as described:
    - "HOW TO..." The article can be short or long and should cover something that your CAC has learned to do and want to share with others. As an example, we plan on having an article on "How to plant a pollinator garden". Deadline for articles is April 5th, so that we can have it published in time for Earth Day. Send them to: [nysaccpresident@gmail.com](mailto:nysaccpresident@gmail.com).
    - Suggested an article on graffiti removal
- Update on Kent Lakes Association
  - Regular meetings are held “virtually” on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7PM using Zoom. Link to be posted before each meeting (ask for the link, if you are interested in joining a KLA meeting). Meetings are open to any interested persons in town.
  - The Kent Lakes Association will be hosting a series of educational forums on improving water quality and enjoyment of lake water bodies. These forums will be held via Zoom each third Thursday of the month. The educational forum schedule is:
    - Thursday, March 18, 2021, 7:00 PM - Invasive Plant Management
    - Thursday, April 15, 2021, 7:00 PM - Shoreline and Buffer Landscaping Techniques
    - Thursday, May 20, 2021, 7:00 PM - Septic System Maintenance
  - Information for Thursday, March 18, 2021, 7:00PM forum - Lindsay Yoder of PRISM will be discussing identification of different plants that are not native to our lakes, the issues and conditions these plants cause and how to address these conditions. The Town has obtained a grant from PRISM for management of invasive species.

## **KCAC Projects**

### **Climate Smart Communities (CSC)**

- Update from CSC task force

### **Kent Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)**

- Possible grant and funding opportunities for NRI
  - Putnam County Soil & Conservation District
  - Hudson Valley Greenway Communities grant program
 Now applying- Hudson River Estuaries DEC funding may be up to \$40,000.

### **Kent Biodiversity Inventory**

- Spring is late this year and so far, not many species are out. Bill and Beth plan to return to many of the same lakes that they sampled last fall and expand their list. They will be working primarily on insects and plants.

### **Other CAC projects**

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

Might be eligible for greenways funding

Gary H sent summaries of Dep and DEC land plans.... Working on permissions

### **Development Projects in Town of Kent**

- There are a few new residential projects plus the planned expansion of the Putnam Nursing and Rehabilitation Center on Ludingtonville Rd.
- Discussed proposed changes to the town code to accommodate soil removal, excavation, and mining in connection with proposed land development projects in the Town of Kent and the response to the town board from the CAC and Planning Board. Discussed the concept of requiring development projects to conform to the character of the Town. Kent does not have an architectural Review board.
- Bill V. provided information about previous projects in the town that required DEC mining permits.

### **Hikes and Events**

The La Fontaine family had contacted Bill V. about reinstalling the kiosk from the trailhead on Whangtown Rd. Ideally, it will be reinstalled in April.

Hawk Rock Hike: May 16<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup>. Bill V. will verify the date and talk to Jared in the recreation Department about working with the KCAC on registration for a socially-distanced hike.

### **Kent Conservation Foundation Report**

Kent Conservation and Kent CAC are always building and maintaining a list of volunteers who are interested in working on the Nimham fire tower and related stewardship activities

Updates on Nimham Mountain fire tower stewardship

- Nimham fire tower will require painting when the weather warms up - Date TBD
- Trash pick-up is needed – Date TBD
- KCF and CAC will establish a plan to clear brush around the corbelled stone chamber on Nimham mountain in Spring 2021

The next meeting date for the Conservation Advisory Committee will be April 21, 2021 at 7:00PM, to be held as a video/telephone conference via WebEx.