



Town of Kent Conservation Advisory Committee

Minutes April 21, 2021 at 7:00 PM

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

Meeting called to order 7:05 PM

Chair's Report

Hawk Rock trailhead kiosk will be reinstalled in May or June in a new location a bit further from the parking area.

- NYC DEP Forest Management planning
 - o Possible forest management plan covering NYC DEP properties located in the Town of Kent
 - o Awaiting further information from NYC DEP
- Review NYS DEC Land Use 101 webinar series
 - o 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>
- Mention of e-mail contact from Westchester County Youth Bureau's Youth Empowerment Council for Change
 - o Students in Westchester looking to promote reduction of food waste and support existing food waste programs in Westchester county (Anne will help them connect with Kent resident Martha Lynch Elder who runs "Second Chance Food.")
- Update on Kent Lakes Association
 - o Regular meetings are held "virtually" on the 3rd 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.
 - o 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.
 - Review of forum held Thursday, April 15, 2021, 7:00 PM - Shoreline and Buffer Landscaping Techniques
 - Next forum is Thursday, May 20, 2021, 7:00 PM – Septic System Maintenance

- o NYS DEC announcement – program to evaluate treatment of harmful algae blooms (HABS) using ultrasound in DEC lake Agwam Southampton
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/press/122734.html>

KCAC Projects

Climate Smart Communities (CSC)

Discussions around Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) and Community Choice Solar options - Energy Choice programs in NYS
Reviewed flyer received by the Town from Eligo Energy, a Community Choice Aggregator
<https://www.eligoenergy.com/aggregations>
Discussed Community Choice Solar

Kent Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)

Seeking funding to cover the cost of the NRI through the Hudson River Estuary Program grants program <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5091.html>. Soil and Water district funds could be used to augment any funding obtained via DEC. Discussed request for an updated quotation from Hudsonia for NRI work.

Diversity data of known species forthcoming from NYS DEC to assist with survey – delayed because DEC is tasked with other activities now. Nate Nardi-Cyrus is working on this. Anne and Bill B. to follow up with Caleb Duncan re letters of support for the proposal

Update on Kent Biodiversity Inventory project: Fieldwork is ongoing.

NYS Parks and Trails Association grant was announced just three weeks before the deadline and KCAC was unable to apply on such short notice this year.

Other CAC projects

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. The Town might be able to obtain funding via the NYS Hudson River Valley Greenway – Community Grants Program to help cover costs of revising the Town's soil removal code to address excavation and mining. Chris Ruthven will try to get cost estimates to Caleb in time for the May 7 deadline for the application.

Highlands Trail / North Putnam Greenway trail project with NYNJ Trail Conference: Gary Haughland and Matt Paul regional forester for DEC hiked Big Buck Mtn. and White Pond and the new parcels that connect them and reviewed the theoretical trail path that they had been working on. Gary Haughland is making proposals to DEP on use of their land for this trail.

Town of Kent CAC hikes and events

Bill V. talked with Jared and will speak with him further about the registration process to support social distancing for COVID19. Hawk Rock hike tentatively set for May 23 at 11 AM. Looking for another volunteer to help lead.

Planning for new events

Astronomy night: postponed due to COVID19 – perhaps could be hosted this summer or early fall. We have reached out to Westchester Astronomers Club as co-hosts – Bill V. will set up some new dates with them in June or September.

Mushroom walk: we will ask COMA to suggest a location. Bill V. will email Lou Tartaro about this.

Social Media Outreach Report

Both the Nimham page and the KCAC page are fairly busy

Kent Conservation Foundation Report

Nimham fire tower will require painting when the weather warms up - Date TBD

Trash pick-up is needed – Work party Friday or next week

KCF and CAC will establish a plan to clear brush around the corbelled stone chamber on Nimham mountain in Spring 2021

Third party write-up of Nimham trail hike and fire tower

▪ <https://scenesfromthetrail.com/2021/03/21/mount-nimham-fire-tower-loop/>

Meeting adjourned 8:45 PM

Next meeting Weds. May 19 at 7:00 PM