

Town of Kent Conservation Advisory Committee
Public Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Attendees: Bill Volckmann, Chair, Bill Buck, Anne B. Campbell, Pamela Wadler, Chris Ruthven, Town Board Liaison, Wendy Weisman from the Lakes Committee at Sedgewood.

Meeting Minutes

Approved minutes from June 2021 meeting

Chair's Report

- Hawk Rock trailhead kiosk
 - Kiosk was reinstalled at trailhead on June 26, 2021 with a huge effort by Scouts Carmel Troop #1
- Review NYS DEC Land Use 101 webinar series
 - Recent webinar series was recorded covering wetlands
 - A 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>
- Update on Kent Lakes Association
 - 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.
 - The Kent Lakes Association hosted a series of educational forums on improving water quality and enjoyment of lake water bodies. These forum recordings are available for review online.

KCAC Projects

RE composting facility on Ressique St., asked whether non-Lake Carmel Residents may use the facility given that our taxes support it. Chris R will inquire how the facility is being used and what the financial structure is for Lake Carmel vs Western Kent. Could composted wood chips be given to residents or sold?

Kent Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)

Kent was the only town to apply for the Soil and Water funding available through the County. The town has been awarded \$40,000

- Waiting to hear results of review of application to Hudson River Estuary grants program. If the NRI is funded through that program, the Soil and Water funds may be used for an alternative project (removal of ash trees that have been killed by the emerald ash borer.)

- Pamela and Bill will work on a press release about the biodiversity inventory and solicit biologists/naturalist to volunteer.
- Sedgewood has a rare aquatic plant – a water marigold. The community is interested in having events related to biodiversity.

Other CAC projects

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

- Trail on NYC DEP Horsepound Brook unit
 - NYC DEP had requested stewardship for a trail that has been an unofficial trail for many years and was recently blazed by a private landowner nearby. The landowner had asked the KAC to assume stewardship. At the June 16 meeting, the KCAC voted to recommend to DEP that a somewhat different trail be adopted, that would run from Whangtown Rd. to Schrade Rd. A letter to that effect was drafted and sent to Matt Castro at DEP. If approved, the CAC will plan to improve the trail to make it ready for addition to the Highlands Trail which is in the planning stages. Bill V. spoke with Matt Castro last week. The request is being reviewed by the DEP.

Development Projects in Town of Kent

- Continued discussion re: 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 had allocated funding for their experts to draft this code revision.

Town of Kent CAC hikes and events

Planning for new events

- Mushroom walk – Pamela has a neighbor who is knowledgeable. Could use Huestis Park. full of mushrooms.
- Astronomy night is still under consideration. Pamela will contact Westchester Astronomers Club as co-hosts.
- Next Weds. Is World Conservation Day

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

- 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 Fall 2021

Next Meeting

Discussed meeting date for August 2021 meeting. Will defer to September.

Contact

For further information about the CAC, including projects the CAC is working on or our meetings, please contact Bill Volckmann, CAC Chair at cac@townofkentny.gov or 914-671-2764.