



# Town of Kent Conservation Advisory Committee

Minutes May 19, 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.

Minutes of the meeting of April 21, 2021 were approved.

## **Chair's Report**

Hawk Rock trailhead kiosk. Bill V. has asked for the LaFontaines for an update.

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 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. Next forum: June 17, 2021 - Septic System Maintenance.

## **KCAC Projects**

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

A grant application to DEC is being prepared to cover costs of the NRI combined with the biodiversity inventory.

### **Biodiversity Inventory:**

Plants will be a very complete survey. Will try to be very complete on some species groups e.g., dragonflies. Field work is ongoing, collecting and processing. Samples will catalogued later on. A graduate student at UCONN is sequencing the DNA of the new fungus.

## **Other CAC projects**

Discussed the “Green Trail” that Gypsy Trail Club had been maintaining running from Whangtown Rd. to the Epstein Farm. This is part of an existing network of trail that has been in place for over 50 years. Representatives from DEP walked the trail with adjacent landowners in April. Gypsy Trail Club would like to develop a loop trail that uses part of the “Green Trail.” However, the Club is not in a position to take on the required stewardship and is asking KCAC/Town of Kent to do so. DEP has asked that a stewardship proposal only include the sections walked that day, which would exclude the continuation of the trail down to Schrade Rd. and any proposed additions to make a loop trail. The section from Whangtown through to Schrade is under consideration by the NY NJ Trail Conference as part of the cross-county trail network but is only in the preliminary proposal stage. Concerns were expressed about having a trail terminate on private property. Decided to meet to walk the trail and reach a decision at the next meeting.

Development projects: Chestnut Energy, which has proposed a gas station complex for the former Bob’s garage property on Rte. 311, is buying additional land contiguous to the property. They have not yet presented a proposal to the Planning Board.

Soil removal code: A grant application has been submitted to Hudson Valley greenways to help cover the costs of developing the new code.

## **Town of Kent CAC hikes and 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 – let COMA suggest a location. Bill V. will email Lou Tartaro about this.

## **Social Media Outreach Report**

Both the Nimham page and the KCAC page are getting a good amount of traffic.

## **Kent Conservation Foundation Report**

Nimham fire tower will require painting when the weather warms up - Date still 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. June 16 at 7:00 PM