

Town of Kent Conservation Advisory Committee

Public Meeting Minutes October 20, 2021 at 7 PM

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

Reviewed and approved minutes from July 2021 meeting and September 2021 as amended.

Chair's Report

- 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

Climate Smart Communities (CSC)

The Climate Smart Communities is a working group to assist the town in achieving Climate Smart goals. The CSC meeting was held prior to the CAC meeting, at 6PM.

Kent Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)

Decision on funding by the DEC Hudson River Estuary is still pending. The town may need to move forward in the meantime with the funding from the County Soil and Water District, which is for a lower amount (\$40,000). Bill B. will email Hudsonia to request a contract that will be negotiated with the town.

Update on Kent Biodiversity Inventory project

The press release led to three inquiries from potential volunteers

Other CAC projects

- Highlands Trail / North Putnam Greenway trail project with NYNJ Trail Conference – no updates

Development Projects in Town of Kent

No updates

Town of Kent CAC Hikes and Events

The Town of Kent CAC encourages all residents to get out and explore our wonderful outdoors while being responsible and maintaining a safe, social distance from other hikers during this 2019-COVID issue. There are many hiking trails available in this area where people can hike independently and enjoy time outdoors.

Annual Fall Foliage Hike at Nimham Fire Tower was held on October 17, 2021

Planning for New Events

Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association (MHAA) can host a star gazing party, with a tentative date of Dec.4, backup date of Dec. 11. Pamela will work out the details.

Considering a hike on New Year's day at Fahnestock Park, will firm up details at next meeting.

Social Media Outreach Report

The facebook page continues to have moderate traffic.

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

- KCF and CAC will establish a plan to clear brush around the corbelled stone chamber on Nimham Mountain and to clear nearby trees.

Bill has cleaned graffiti three times in last two weeks. Steve Gasparini, a Kent PD officer, suggested documenting day, time, and location of tags.

Will do a trash cleanup when foliage dies back. The date will be set at the November KCAC meeting.

The November 2021 CAC meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, November 17, 2021 at 7:00PM. The meeting will be held via WebEx. 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.