

Town of Kent Conservation Advisory Committee

Monthly CAC Update Meeting

Public Meeting Agenda

June 17, 2020 at 7 PM

***NOTE: This public meeting will be held by conference call due to the standing Emergency Order in NYS and Putnam County mandating all in-person meetings and gatherings be cancelled, postponed or otherwise held by video or conference call to help prevent the spread of COVID-19***

# Meeting information

**The following meeting information is shared to enable this meeting in lieu of an in-person meeting at the town hall.**

##### **Meeting Information**

Town of Kent CAC - June meeting

Wednesday, Jun 17, 2020 7:00 pm | 2 hours | (UTC-04:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Meeting number: 126 135 8014

Password: KCAC\_JUN2020 (52220586 from phones and video systems)

Meeting link:

https://meetingsamer.webex.com/meetingsamer/j.php?MTID=m2bb3276482bc3c5589ebe45923b15778

Join by phone

+1-646-992-2010 United States Toll (New York City)

+1-408-418-9388 United States Toll

Access code: 126 135 8014

# Meeting Minutes

Review and approve minutes from May 2020 meeting

# Chair’s Report

Update from CAC chair on upcoming events and news affecting conservation activities

* NYS Association of Conservation Commissions (NYSACC)
	+ <https://nysacc.org>
	+ Kent CAC must renew annual membership in this organization
		- $75 for municipalities and non-profits
		- $30 for individuals
		- $150 for for-profit companies
	+ 2020 Conference on the Environment originally scheduled for Autumn 2020 is canceled
* Review NYS DEC Land Use 101 webinar series
	+ <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5094.html#Training>
	+ Next 🡺 Best Practices for Local Environmental Reviews – June 17, 2020
* Update on Kent Lakes Association
	+ Last meeting held May 16, 2020 by video conference call
	+ Each private lake association will be setting up water quality testing of their lake waters using a procedures and methodology worked out and tested in 2019
	+ Next Lakes Association meeting scheduled for June 20, 2020 at 9AM
* Harmful algae blooms (HABs)
	+ Summer is here. Be on the lookout for HABs in our lakes and waters!
	+ Information and reporting page: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83310.html>

# KCAC Projects

Review projects the KCAC is currently working on

## Grant Opportunities

* Introduction from Millenium Strategies (m-strat.com) grant writing team

## Climate Smart Communities (CSC)

* Update from CSC sub-committee
* Review CSC Committee structure
	+ How to and when to invite representatives from other town committees to participate to facilitate coordination with other town committees and groups.
	+ Review list of groups who should be included
	+ Recruitment of additional community members – press release
* Review possible grant opportunities for CSC
	+ NYS DEC Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) program for 2019 – final application date July 24, 2020
	+ US EPA Sustainable Materials Management 2020 Anaerobic Digesting Funding Opportunity (food waste composting) – final application date July 14, 2020
		- <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/sustainable-materials-management-2020-anaerobic-digestion-funding#quickfacts>
		- <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2020/usda-announces-cooperative-agreements-for-community-compost-and-food-waste-reduction>

## Kent Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)

* Review possible grant and funding opportunities for NRI
* Discuss possible sources of outsource support
	+ Hudson Highlands Land Trust
	+ Hudsonia
* Try to team up with neighboring municipality
* Kent Biodiversity Inventory – NRI sub-committee project
	+ Update/review of biodiversity project
	+ Diversity data of known species forthcoming from NYS DEC to assist with survey
	+ Further discussion of other database resources
		- Herbarium data is being accumulated into NYS DEC report
* Schedule meeting with Hudsonia to discuss NRI process and resources available with Hudsonia along with costing
* Need GIS system to produce maps for NRI project. Possible donation item for NRI work through Kent Conservation Foundation?

## Other CAC projects

* Highlands Trail / North Putnam Greenway trail project with NYNJ Trail Conference
	+ Progress was made in 2019 and January 2020 in scouting out possible trail layout through Town of Kent
	+ All further work is currently on hold

## Development Projects in Town of Kent

* Receive update from Town of Kent Planning board on existing or new development projects in the town

# 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.

## Planning for new events

* Mushroom walk at Clearpool: Sunday, September 19, 2020 @ (time)
	+ Must confirm date/time at this point
	+ Discussed briefly with L. Tartaro who indicated maybe October. Everything in the air at this point.
	+ Will be led by COMA members
* Astronomy night: date and location TBD – we have reached out to Westchester Astronomers Club as co-hosts
	+ Awaiting contact from the astronomer’s club to review possible locations
	+ Town Center is the preferred site due to parking and accessibility

# Social Media Outreach Report

Review activity on Facebook and other social media outlets

# Kent Conservation Foundation Report

Receive a report from the Kent Conservation Foundation

Updates on Nimham Mountain fire tower stewardship

* Fire tower closure to slow the spread of COVID-19 – Order by NYS DEC executive board affects all fire towers in NYS
* Maintenance date (graffiti painting) to be scheduled

# Meeting End

Final comments from anyone

Establish next meeting date – Wednesday July 15, 2020 @ 7:00PM

* Format depends on meeting restrictions in effect by this meeting time
	+ May be held in-person at the Town of Kent Town Hall
	+ Whether or not in-person meetings are allowed, a WebEx conference will be utilized in conjunction with in-person to encourage those who do not want to attend in-person to participate.

# 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.