

Kent Conservation Advisory Committee, Town of Kent Meeting Minutes, September 16, 2015

Attendees

CAC members present: Anne Balant-Campbell, Bill Buck, David Ehnebuske, Beth Herr, Phil Tolmach, Bill Volckmann. CAC members absent: Marty Collins. Visitors: George Baum, Jean Ehnebuske.

Chair Beth Herr called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

1. Chair's Report

Correspondence

Beth passed around and talked briefly about brochures and information she received about mountain lions, amphibians and reptiles, and activities at [The Native Plant Center](#). She also mentioned an interesting article she read about the economic value of Fahnestock State Park. She reported that she saw positive press about the CAC's butterfly count event in *The Putnam Examiner*, *The Putnam County Courier*, and the *Putnam County Press*.

KCAC and KCF presentations

The presentations that Beth and Dave made to the Rotary Club of Carmel on July 2 and planned to share with CAC members were tabled.

NYSACC (New York State Association of Conservation Commissions)

The annual Conference on the Environment, hosted by this organization, is scheduled for October 16 – 17 in Ithaca, NY. Additional information, including registration details, is available [here](#).

Eagle Scout project completed

The Chair reported that Patrick LaFontaine had finished his project at Mead Farm/Hawk Rock. Patrick was also instrumental in engaging his troop, Troop 1 Carmel, to present the colors at the beginning of the Fire Tower Festival.

Chair's term

Beth stated that her term as a CAC member will be ending in December. She suggested tabling the discussion of this item until the next meeting.

2. Outreach communication

Kent CAC Facebook page

The Chair reported that she posted on FaceBook the “Save the Date” information about the Fire Tower Festival and Fall Foliage Hike on Sunday, October 11. She also posted a note that called for site-prep/clean-up volunteers for Saturday, October 3, 10 AM–noon, a week and a day prior to the festival.

Kent Nature Almanac

Beth announced that the next issue will feature observations for the months of August and September.

Kentcac.info

Dave Ehnebuske reported that the CAC's website is ticking along nicely. On September 12, he posted a “Save the Date” notice about the Fire Tower Festival on the website and also sent the notice to Kentcac.info subscribers. Dave stated that the newly revised [website](#) for the Town of Kent is now live.

Subscriptions to lists on the CAC website

Dave said that he continues to get 2 or 3 new subscribers each month.

3. Hikes and Programs—Fire Tower Festival and Fall Foliage Hike

Beth showed CAC members the two-color poster she created to help promote the event. In addition to the standard size poster, she is having a few printed in a larger size as well. After the meeting, she will be sending the pdf to all CAC members so they can print out and distribute the posters in high-traffic areas around town and in the wider community.

Beth started the discussion about the festival by running through a list of who had volunteered for various tasks before and on the day of the festival; which tasks still needed volunteers/additional volunteers; what decisions still needed to be made, and other details. Beth stated that—
A volunteer was needed to accept delivery of the portajohn at the fire tower site on the evening of Friday, Oct 9. Dave volunteered.

Bill Volckmann will pick up and deliver a generator from Rick Secor and chairs from Arts on the Lake. He will also retrieve the 20 × 20 foot canopy from Howard Carpenter. Howard volunteered to help set it up. Bill V. and George Baum will be providing E-Z Up tents. One will be used over the performers. Beth will pick up and deliver four tables and a sandwich board the Kent Public Library is loaning us on Monday, Oct 5, and transport them to the fire tower site on the morning of the festival. One table will be used under the canopy for children's activities; one will be used under the canopy to display historical info and newspaper articles about the last renovation; one will be used for refreshments; and the other as the welcome/registration/information table (with brochures promoting memberships in the KCF and a container for cash donations). Phil Tolmach, Anne Balant-Campbell and Kaye Baum have volunteered to sit at the welcome table. Anne said she would recruit her son, Eli, and his friend, Michael Tierney, to sit there as well. Sue Kotzer has volunteered to bring materials for children's crafts and activities. Beth will bring pennants/flags with the words, "I like the fire tower because..." for children to complete and hang on a clothesline. Anne suggested using a tablet or iPad to show the history of the fire tower, but time constraints may not allow that to happen.

Beth needs to find volunteers to help set up for the festival beginning at 11 AM. Based on a suggestion from CAC members, Beth will call Sue Dieck at the Carmel School District to find out how to recruit students trying to accumulate community service hours.

Beth has the list of media contacts from Marty Collins.

The five volunteer shuttle drivers are Dave, Anne, Dod Chahroudi, Cindy Hess, and Lucy Gaugler.

George will pick up and deliver an amplifier and speaker from Dave Radovich's music store in Carmel on Saturday. He will return it on Monday.

Ralph Szur will be the emcee for the festival program.

Beth reported that she had made 2 calls to the Kent Police, but no response yet. She said she needs 3 cadets for the day of the festival.

Beth will make "Shuttle" signs for the vehicles that will be transporting attendees to and from the festival.

Beth will be picking up apples and donuts from Salinger's Orchard. Bill Buck made a cash contribution for buying the apples and donuts. Someone needs to volunteer to buy and bring cups.

Bill V. volunteered to bring two 5-gallon containers filled with drinking water and Dave volunteered to bring one more 5-gallon container also filled with drinking water. It was unclear who might be bringing ice and tubs.

Beth emphasized that the press release should include the need for volunteers for site prep work/clean-up on Saturday, October 3, from 10 AM to noon, as well as on the day of the festival.

James Sherwood will be leading annual Fall Foliage Hike to the top. It begins at 11:30 in the parking lot on Gypsy Trail Road so hikers will arrive at the top in time for the festival opening. It was noted that the press release should ask hikers to bring lunch and water.

Bill V. stated that he had mowed the area around the fire tower. Bill V. said he planned to cut up all the big fallen trees at the fire tower site so they would not be a hazard to children. He may do this prior to October 3, depending on his schedule. Phil offered Bill the use of his professional weed whacker on site-prep day.

Beth said she planned to call the Putnam County Emergency Services to make them aware of the event. In regard to a question about having First Aid Kits on hand for the festival, Beth remarked that we should all have them.

George said he has registration forms from the last fire tower celebration. He plans to get copies made

to use on October 11.

Dave asked if there are any forms we still need in order to host the festival on DEC land. Beth responded that Bill had written to Jeff Wiegert at the DEC but had thus far received no response. Beth said she would organize the list of what was being done by whom and when and send it to CAC members by e-mail.

5. Kent Conservation Foundation Report

Tabled.

6. Environmental Leaders Learning Alliance (ELLA)

Tabled.

7. Other

Tabled.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

The next meeting of the Kent CAC will be at 7 PM on Wednesday, October 21, at the Kent Town Hall. All meetings of the Kent CAC are open to the public.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Ehnebuske,
ex-officio recording secretary