

Public Meeting  
Kent Conservation Advisory Committee  
Wednesday, May 15, 7:00 PM  
Minutes

Attendees: Anne Balant-Campbell, Bill Buck, Beth Herr (Chair), Ed Iliano, Phil Tolmach, Bill Volckmann, Chris Ruthven (Town Board liaison).

Approved minutes, April 17, 2019 as amended

Chair's report

- Welcome to new member Ed Iliano
- Thanks to Bill Volckmann for running the March KCAC meeting and taking minutes at the March Lake Association meeting.
- Thanks for Phil for working on the successful Trees for Tribes grant, and for offering to provide trees at wholesale prices for the town.
- And to Chris Ruthven, Town Board Liaison, for the map showing all the greenspaces in the town.

Kent Lakes Association

- A training for the DEC Water Assessments by Volunteer Evaluators (WAVE) program had been scheduled, but water levels were too high. Bruce Barber led a training on assessing water coming into a lake within 30 minutes after storm using a test strip that records Phosphorus.
- The WAVE first training will be Sat June 15. The group will meet at Town Hall 8:45 AM and then will go down to the lake. Members of the Lakes Association are working hard to prepare for the Lakes Conference.

Clearpool Model Forest Advisory Committee

- Major work has been completed on the trail system. They now have a downloadable map, a new road, signage, and some areas that are designated "off limits" to separate the trail system from the campus. They held a Mothers Day walk but attendance was low due to rain. They might hold another one.
- They are still trying to work out a plan for replacing the sugar house, either by tearing down and replacing the current failing structure or building elsewhere on site. A shared space such as a "forest products facility" is under consideration. Kent Historical society is interested in the house because it a log structure and may be old. The committee is seeking ideas for a fall program at Clearpool.

#### Kent Conservation Foundation

- The KCF did not meet last month so there is no report.

#### Outreach report

- Facebook was quite active, lots of hits for spring pictures

#### Other

- Seed bank Sampling at Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park, May 16th, 10:00 AM. The Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a seed bank sampling from the shore of the lake at the park. The sample involves collecting seeds from the soil and seeing what will germinate. Because water chestnuts persist over a long time, if the seeds are in the soil, it suggests that they have been there a while.
- CCPC Cornell Cooperative of Putnam County Master Gardener Plant Sale 8:30 AM-1:00 PM on Saturday, May 10. There will be over 12,000 plants for sale at the Coop. extension parking lot. Note that when people deliver plants to sell, volunteers have to wash the plants and put in new soil without letting the plants touch the soil. This is to prevent the spread of invasive species. Proceeds of the sale are used for scholarships and programs

#### Hikes and programs

##### Kent Cleanup Day – April 27, 2019

- Twelve thousand pounds of refuse were collected by 302 volunteers in 13 groups, including police cadets, a lacrosse team, residents of the Chen Yang monastery, etc. It was a great community event. Thirteen people came to McCarthy's restaurant afterwards.
- Global Water Dance event will be at Arts on the Lake, Sat. June 15. Consider offering a kids activity. For example, kids could paint a lake on a 30-foot canvas.
- Water Chestnut removal at Putnam County Veteran's Memorial Park, Saturday June 22. KCAC will discuss at next meeting. Will seek volunteers and PRISM will send staff. Chris Ruthven will try to get county volunteers. Will try to remove it all, and will inspect in August. By September, all that remains is the underground root structures and the seeds, so inspection must be done in August. It can take multiple years to eliminate. Chris has talked with Ken Clare, Fire Bureau commissioner about the possibility that fire truck tankers could be the source. In flushing the dry hydrants, water from other sources is mixed. When they use the lake for training, trucks from entire county practice there.
- Bill Volckmann and Ed Iliano will lead the Hawk Rock hike on May 19<sup>th</sup> hike

- Discussed Climate Smart Community. Ed has talked with Karen Ertl, Master Gardener. She shared her notebook and would be glad to speak with us. The Putnam County Legislature is discussing adopting the Climate Smart Resolution. Beth will submit a report for the town board indicating that we are forming a committee. Discussed getting this on the Town Board agenda.
- Schedule storm cleanup, Hawk Rock Trail – postponed to next meeting.

#### Other

- IT access for minutes and agenda is still being worked out. Dave Ehnebuske has posted minutes up through January.
- Kent Greenspace Map: idea for an interactive map where you can click and bring up a layer showing existing trails.
- Tree Committee  
Discussed possible membership of the tree committee that Town Board member Bill Huestis wants to form, with representation from different sectors of the town. They have \$1,000.00 for 2" diameter trees for storm replacement plus prior losses for riparian buffer. There also is funding from Rotary, donated in honor of his mother. We need to check why trees died and make sure the locations are good. The vehicle for the funding might be the Kent Conservation Committee, or a town trust. The KCAC has a list of trees that remove phosphorus. Bruce Barber should be involved. It was also suggested that the DEC and DEP foresters be invited, as well as the forester who works with the Watershed Agricultural Council, and representatives from local groups including the Lakes Association, the KCAC, the Kent Beautification Committee, and the Lake Carmel Parks advisory committee.
- Superfund Site: Arsenic Mine  
Bill V. commented on the Mt. Nimham arsenic issue. The trail is being modified to keep people from making contact with the contaminated soil. There is helpful information on website for EPA, CDC, DEC. Bill will share the links. State DOH referral is recommended for people who may have been exposed.

The next meeting of the Kent CAC will be at 7 PM on Wednesday, June 19, at Kent Town Hall, 25 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes, New York.