

Public Meeting  
Kent Conservation Advisory Committee  
July 17th 2019, 7:00 PM  
Minutes

- Attendees: Anne Balant-Campbell, Bill Buck, Ed Illiano, Phil Tolmach, Bill Volckmann
- Approved minutes of June 19, 2019 as amended
- Chair's Report
  - We should preserve the issues of the Nature Almanac that KCAC is no longer compiling. Bill V. will ask Dave Ehnebuske for this.
  - Nimham Mountain Arsenic cleanup: Bill V. brought printouts from the EPA website. More information is available from the CDC. The EPA may condemn some of the land to cordon off areas and keep people out.
  - WAVE (Water Assessments by Volunteer Evaluators training) is being postponed until warmer weather. Bill V. will ask Bruce Barber for an update.
  - Painting party for fire tower needs to be planned for graffiti removal
  - DEC region 3 is trying to get updated painting contract proposals for the fire tower.
  - Water Chestnut removal by DEC PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) was done June 22, 2019 at the Veteran's Memorial Park. Over the course of the weekend, PRISM staff removed over 29,000 plants. They will visit again in August to follow up and assess whether the removal was successful. It may be a long-term/permanent problem.
- Resignation of Beth Herr, KCAC member and Chair
  - Ed Illiano has been appointed by the Kent Town Board to the KCAC for a term ending Dec. 31, 2024.
  - Bill Volckmann has been appointed as Chair of the KCAC for the remainder of Beth Herr's term, which ends Dec. 31, 2019.
  - The KCAC might try recruiting new members via a table at the county fair in addition to other methods of advertising.
- Discussed the KCAC's role as advisory to the town on environmental issues. The only KCAC member who was able to attend the walk-through of the site of the

proposed hotel and truck stop complex on Rte. 52 was Phil Tolmach, who is also Planning Board Chair. He advised us that another walk-through will not be possible.

- The KCAC agreed to host a table in the Discover Putnam Tent at the Putnam County Fair Friday July 26 and Sunday July 28. (The Saturday session was already full). KCAC members will work out shifts for coverage. Bill has materials from Beth for the display. Anne would like to get photos for a slideshow.
- Climate Smart Initiative: Next steps were discussed. Ed and Bill B. will start working on the “How Green is my Town” survey as a preliminary “baseline” assessment. Some of the information needed for this will have to be obtained from town employees. We might make a presentation to the Town Board at the next regular meeting, which will be Sept. 10.
- Kent Conservation Foundation report
  - A second storm cleanup on the Hawk Rock Trail is not needed. Other individuals seem to have removed the remaining trees and the trail is clear.
  - Amazon charity donations can be made to the Kent Conservation Foundation via [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/Smile). We should make this known via facebook.
- Hikes and programs
  - May 19 hike to Hawk Rock went well, with about 14 new people.
  - Planning for Summer/Fall hikes and programs:  
May want to coordinate to avoid duplication with the hikes led by the Cooperative Extension and/or focus more on walks with specific nature themes. An astronomy walk may be hosted in September. Bill V. will ask Dave Ehenbuske about an astronomy group that might help. Plan for a new moon, perhaps in September. Would need to coordinate turning off the lights at town hall  
Another option would be a mushroom walk: Ed will ask Matt Smentana at Clearpool about leading this in September. Dates from Matt 9/5-9/10 Sunday Sept. 8 11-1 start time.  
The annual Fall foliage hike at Mount Nimham fire tower will be Sun. Oct. 13 at 11 AM.  
We will ask KCAC volunteer Dave Ehenbuske to distribute information about these events via the email list serve. Cornell has a Hike Putnam website that would be a good place to post the hikes.

Discussed possibly having a KCAC table at Kent Community Day, Sept. 7.

8:20 Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be Weds. Sept. 18, 7:00 PM at the Kent Town Hall.