

Town of Kent Conservation Advisory Committee

Public Meeting

September 18, 2019 at 7 PM

Town of Kent Town Hall, 25 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes, NY 10512

Minutes

Attendees

Bill Buck (CAC), Anne Balant-Campbell (CAC), Ed Illiano (CAC), Phil Tolmach (CAC), Bill Volckmann (CAC Chair), Chris Ruthven (Kent Town Board)

Minutes of Town of Kent Conservation Advisory Committee meeting of July 17, 2019 were approved.

Chair's report

- Honoring Beth Herr, past KCAC Chair – Bill V. will follow up.
- Update from Kent Lakes Association
 - Next meeting date October 21, 2019, 08:45 AM at Town Hall. Bill V. encouraged KCAC members to attend.
 - WAVE training probably was not done this year. Adopt-a-pipe testing may have been done. Bill V. is waiting for an update
 - The Lakes Association is still considering what status it should have: as a Town Committee, a subcommittee of the KCAC (to which members would not have to be appointed by the Town Board), or as an independent association as it is now.
- New York State Association of Conservation Commissions is hosting a one-day workshop at the NYSDEC in Albany on Friday 10/25/19. <https://mailchi.mp/127b60cab0b3/invitation-nys-dec-free-one-day-conference-oct-25-2019>
- An "Alien Invaders" lecture/hike will be put on by The Cary Institute at the Catskill Visitors Center on October 08, 2019
- iMapInvasives project and app for smartphones by the CRISP (Catskill Regional Invasive Species program) is useful and easy to use to pinpoint the locations of invasive species.
- Nomination for Putnam County Community Service network: CAC was nominated for an award by Town Board member Bill Heustis. Details TBA.

CAC Projects

- KCAC table at Putnam County 4H Fair got a lot of traffic and 47 requests to be added to the hikes and program email list. About 8 people also expressed interest in the KCAC and/or KCF. Anne emailed all of them to invite them to the KCAC meetings.
- "How Green is my Town Survey?" is partially complete. Anne is to type up what has been done so far.
- Climate Smart Initiative. Anne will make a presentation to the Town Board, to be followed by a resolution to be presented by Chris Ruthven.
- Update on work with NY/NJ Trail Conference planning for cross-Putnam Trail. Bill V. has been working with Gary Haughland to scope this out. Others are welcome to join. They will do more work after frost kills the vegetation. Bill V. will try to give us advance notice of Gary's next visit.
- Kent Nature Almanac
 - The almanac is no longer being published. Contributions by community members have dropped to almost nothing during the previous year. The previous editions are archived on the KCACinfo website. These could be reformatted and placed in a binder at the library. Perhaps a teen volunteer could help. Chris R. offered to contact the school.

- Clearpool Model Forest: They are looking for ash trees that are lingering and putting their branches on rootstocks to try to develop resistant plants. Blue ash is resistant, but our area mostly has white, green, and black ash species. The ash trees at Clearpool are dying.
- Route 52 Kent Country Square development. Bruce Barber has provided input on environmental quality issues to the Planning Board for inclusion in the scoping document. The KCAC should review the scoping document and determine any potential environmental concerns that might have been overlooked. The KCAC can have input within the next 3-6 months. If there is a possibility of historical artifacts on the site, the Town of Kent Historical Society could request a walk-thorough of the property.
- Natural Resources Inventory: Bill B. would like to do a plant species survey of some key/representative habitat areas (e.g., Fahnstock Park, California Hill). This would include preserving specimens and logging them into a professional database at the NY Botanical Garden. He would follow these areas over multiple seasons, perhaps with help from former KCAC Chair Beth Herr. He will need a map that he can use to analyze and mark the areas of study.
- Bill V. will talk to Town Clerk Lana Capelli about advertising for new members to fill the two vacancies on the KCAC.

Hikes and programs

Kent CAC hikes/events scheduled

- Fall Foliage Hike Oct. 13, Multiple Use Area. It was decided not to lead a hike for the lower lot this year, where work is going on to ameliorate the arsenic contamination. Ed, Anne, and Bill V. will lead the hike.

Other planned events

- Astronomy night, date and location TBA. Bill contacted the Westchester Astronomers Club and is waiting to hear back. Supervisor Fleming has indicated that lights at Town Hall could be shut off for this event. Heustis Park would be another possible location. It should be scheduled during a New Moon.
- Mushroom walk at Clearpool, date TBA – Lou Tartaro is willing to lead, but we now need six months notice to get on the Clearpool schedule.

Kent Conservation Foundation report

- Painting party for graffiti removal at the Fire Tower will be Monday October 7 8 AM rain date Tues 10/8. The Putnam Riders, who have helped with cleanup in the past, will pay for the graffiti removal chemicals.
- New plates for steps are still to be ordered.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 PM. Next Kent CAC meeting date will be Weds. Oct. 16, 2019.