

Public Meeting
Kent Conservation Advisory Committee
June 19th 2019, 7 PM
Minutes

- Attendees: Anne Balant-Campbell, Bill Buck, Phil Tolmach, Bill Volckmann
- Guest: Ed Iliano
- Approved minutes, May 15, 2019 – as amended
- Members expressed their shock and sorrow at the untimely death of Putnam County Judge James Reitz on June 14, 2019.
- Resignation of Beth Herr, KCAC Chair
 - Discussed a suitable way to honor Beth Herr for her dedicated service, perhaps with help from other organizations. Ed Iliano offered to contact FROGS, and Bill Buck will contact the Library and the Putnam County Land Trust.
 - Recommendation to Town Board re a new KCAC chair – The KCAC voted unanimously to recommend that Bill Volckmann be appointed chair of the KCAC. Anne will notify Town Clerk Lana Capelli of this recommendation.
 - With the resignation of Beth Herr, the committee now has four members out of the required seven. Recruiting new KCAC members: Ed Iliano will submit his letter of interest in serving on the KCAC to the Town Board. The KCAC might try recruiting new members via a table at the county fair in addition to other methods of advertising.
 - Clearpool Model Forest Advisory Committee membership: The board is losing Beth Herr. Ed Iliano is also a member of this body so if he is appointed to the KCAC, the committee will still be represented on Model Forest Advisory Committee.
 - Anne will assume administrative responsibility for the KCAC Facebook page
 - Anne will Join the board of the Kent Conservation Foundation, and Ed Iliano is considering joining as well.
- Water Chestnut removal by DEC PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) is scheduled for June 22, 2019 at the Veteran’s Memorial Park. The water chestnut seems to have massive root structures.
- 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.

Nimham cleanup = bill brought printouts from website – more info available from CDC EPA may condemn some of the land to cordon off areas and keep people out

- Climate Smart Initiative: Bill B. will start working on the “How Green is my Town” survey. Anne will talk with Town Board liaison Chris Ruthven about bringing the resolution to the Board.

- 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.smile.amazon.com). We might want to 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.
Mushroom walk: Ed will ask Matt Smentana at Clearpool about leading this in September.
Sunday Oct. 13 Fall foliage hike at Mount Nimham fire tower 11 AM

The KCAC will ask 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.

- Chair’s Report
 - Kent Lakes Forum on June 14 was well received and had wonderful presentations. This regional forum was hosted by the NY State Federation of Lake Associations (NYS FOLA).
 - The group conducted “Adopt a Pipe” training part 2. The pipe test also measures nitrates after a storm event.
 - Trees are to be planted at Lake Carmel on June 21. This is being funded by a NYS Urban Forestry Council Arbor Day Foundation Community Grant by Phil Tolmach in collaboration with the Town Board.

- WAVE (Water Assessments by Volunteer Evaluators training) is being postponed until warmer weather. WAVE sampling has not yet begun.
- The KCAC agreed to meet in July (July 17) but not in August