

KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2020

Call to Order

Notice Requirements

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and published in the Hunterdon County Democrat on February 6, 2020 and the Courier News on February 4, 2020. A copy of this Meeting notice was telefaxed to the Express Times and posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on January 30, 2020.

Notice of meeting location change from 599 Oak Grove Rd., Frenchtown, NJ to ZOOM remote for this meeting and all subsequent meetings for 2020 was published in the Hunterdon Democrat and posted in the Kingwood Municipal Building on August 20, 2020.

In order to ensure full public participation in this meeting, all members of this Commission, and also members of the public are requested to speak only when recognized by the Chair so that there is no simultaneous discussion or over talk, and further, all persons are requested to utilize the microphones which are provided for your use by the Township. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Roll Call

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Debbie Kratzer	Maureen Syrnick
Mara Tippet	Timothy Cahalin
Gail Ashley	Sandra McNicol
Ralph Celebre	Cynthia Niciecki
Lois Voronin	
Elizabeth Combs	

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

Debbie Hutton – present but not officially the secretary yet

Minutes

Motion to approve August 28, 2020 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Mara Tippet and seconded by Lois Voronin.

<u>Yes</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Debbie Kratzer	
Mara Tippet	
Gail Ashley	
Ralph Celebre	
Lois Voronin	
Elizabeth Combs	

Correspondence

ANJEC News <https://anjec.org/anjec-report/> - reviewed

Reports

The 2019 EC Annual Report – FINAL – was approved last month, the final report was sent to the Township Committee and posted on the township website.

Notice of upcoming meetings/workshops: Reminder of Dates

1. **ANJEC's Annual Environmental Congress** – all online [registration](#) one price \$25 for all sessions
 - Thursday evenings, 6pm: October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
 - Friday lunch sessions, noon: October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
2. **October 6-8: Rally 2020, Virtual National Land Conservation Conference.** Register [here](#).

Stewardship

1. Lockatong Creek Riparian Buffer –
 - The plan to plant the remaining 290 trees + shrubs funded by The Nature Conservancy's Roots for Rivers grant was discussed. It was agreed that trying to complete the planting by the end of October would be good, because it's getting dark earlier. Debbie estimated that we will probably need 5 planting days, maybe 4-6 pm on weekdays, and one weekend day. Debbie agreed to contact Richard Dodds to see if he's able to use his tractor to dig the holes, like he did for the July planting, because it was agreed it was really helpful and made the planting so much easier. It was agreed to keep the volunteer groups relatively small, and to contact Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts to try to get volunteers. Ralph said he would post the flyer at his store. Debbie will call Pinelands Nursery to see when they can deliver the plants, and see if it's possible to do the planting in late October.
2. Horseshoe Bend Park –
 - Mara found the sign that was funded by a previous grant and will arrange for it to be installed soon by the new pavilion, along the path going up. A kiosk will be built to protect the sign and make it more visible. She noted that the mugwort is a big problem in the meadow area. She talked about planting more milkweed seeds, or maybe some milkweed plants, in the top field, and to focus on slowly improving the meadow. This was talked about it at the last Parks and Rec meeting. The idea is to designate paths, so they look tailored and deliberate. Mara put up the monarch waystation sign in field 6.
 - The EC members like the idea of establishing a Meadow Management Workgroup, that would take a look at the 2013 North American Butterfly Association (NABA) Meadow Management Plan. It was noted that the 2 front fields were hayed today (fields 7, 9 & 10 in the plan). The plan recommended each field should be mowed only every 3rd year, and these should be rotated, so 1/3 of the fields should be mowed in any given year.
 - Invasives species – there are a few paulonia trees and autumn olive that need to come down. Ralph said that he and Wayne Hudson, from USDA, checked on the status of the weevils that attack mile-a-minute. The presence of green immature berries show they may be slowing down the weed's life cycle. They distributed about 2 more soup cups worth of mile-a-minute weevils.

Well water testing and septic system pumping

Mara has arranged well water tested through Raritan Headwaters Association. Pickup will be on October 3rd and 6th, and samples will be returned on October 7th. The information was send in the

mailer to township residents and will be put on the website. At other well testing events this year, she's noted that participation rates are about half as usual due to pandemic, so she shouldn't need any help. Discounted septic pumping will be through Castle Septic from October 13-31.

Maureen Syrnick joined the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Sustainable Kingwood – Update

Mara talked about some possible projects, including a website “dashboard,” and a Trex bin for recycling plastic. Some different potential SJ actions include private well education and outreach, education on lead in water, and one on census outreach.

Luxfer (MEL) – Update

No update.

PennEast Pipeline – Update

PennEast application to DRBC is available at the following website:

<https://www.nj.gov/drbc/programs/project/penneast.html>. A DRBC hearing hasn't been scheduled yet.

Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting News and Update

No update.

Planning Board News and Updates

The last PB meeting was cancelled.

ERI Update Workgroup

The 2009 ERI can be downloaded from this link:

https://kingwoodtownship.com/ktdocuments/ERI_Kingwood_2009_January.pdf. The EC agrees that it's time to update the ERI. Mara said that Princeton Hydro recently updated Bernardsville's ERI, and she liked that they added some trends information and some water quality information. She will share the link. The EC agreed that we should update the ERI over the course of the coming year, update the look, photos, links, references, maps, and a one page section on climate. It was agreed to put on the agenda for October to talk about what order to do the updates, and possibly plan to focus on one chapter per month.

New Business

Ralph tried to follow up about the DEP hotline spill incident from last month. He said the FAA office said possibly the “N65” on the helicopter indicated that it had something to do with firefighting.

Adjournment

Ralph Celebre made a motion to adjourn, Lois Voronin seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.