

KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2020

7:30PM

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chair Debbie Kratzer at 7:34 P.M. The below Notice Requirements were read aloud.

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

Present

Maureen Syrnick
Debbie Kratzer
Gail Ashley
Ralph Celebre
Sandra McNicol
Lois Voronin

Absent

Mara Tippet
Cynthia Niciecki
Betsy Combs
Timothy Cahalin

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

Gavin Edwards, Vice President of US Operations Luxfer MEL Technologies, requested the Privilege of the Floor during the Luxfer MEL update part of the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of September 22, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes were tabled to the next meeting due to the lack of a quorum of Environmental Commission members.

Approval of October 27, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes were tabled to the next meeting due to the lack of a quorum of Environmental Commission members.

Correspondence

Vice Chair Mara Tippet attended the ANJEC News Congress last month and was asked by Chair Debbie Kratzer to provide a summary of the sessions to the members. Mara was absent therefore the update will be tabled until the next meeting when she is present.

Reports

It was noted that the Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District corrected the address on the Certification Letter for the Leyva Dwelling, Block 32, Lot 1.09. There were no comments on this letter.

The Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification NJDEP Case Number 20-10-22-1218-44: 268 Barbertown Idell Road was reviewed.

Notice of upcoming meetings/workshops: Reminder of Dates

Chair Debbie Kratzer reminded everyone that the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River Management Council is holding a meeting on November 30. They are conducting a survey on river use and Debbie offered to forward the link to members who are interested in participating. Sandra McNicol felt the questionnaire was well done and encouraged everyone to take the survey and submit it.

At the next EC meeting on December 15, 2020 the members would like to discuss the possibility of continuing the meetings on Zoom.

Stewardship

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported the AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassadors completed planting the last 150 trees for the Lockatong Creek Riparian Buffer. In 2020 there were 500 trees planted and during the three years of grants about 1850 trees have been planted. She needs to compile two final reports as there were two different grants used to plant the trees.

Mara Tippet was absent therefore the update on Horseshoe Bend Park will be tabled until the next meeting when she is present.

Well water testing and septic system pumping

Castle Septic completed the discounted pricing program for septic pumping that ran from October 13 to October 31, 2020. The EC Secretary was asked to call Castle Septic to determine how many residents participated.

Sustainable Kingwood – Update

Ralph Celebre reported that Township Clerk Cindy Keller provided him with a list of vehicles for the fleet inventory and he had an initial meeting with General Foreman, Michael Ewing at the DPW. Ralph will be meeting with the General Foreman again to review fuel use to help fill out the necessary forms. He believes this is a baseline that will guide the DPW in determining how to improve the fleet and the need to obtain new vehicles.

Ralph Celebre indicated there is another initiative for food waste and would possibly like to start on this soon.

Governor Murphy signed the Single Use Plastic Ban and Chair Debbie Kratzer asked if any members had additional information to share. It was noted that there are not many companies in Kingwood Township and it was discussed how this ban could possibly affect them.

Luxfer (MEL) – Update

Gail Ashley reported that she received correspondence relating to the CEA from William Kraft (forwarded from Township Clerk C. Keller earlier in the day) and will need some time to review the three documents (a letter and two filled out forms).

Gavin Edwards stated he contacted William Kraft after the last EC meeting to facilitate Gail Ashley's request to receive the CEA Report. Mr. Edwards does not believe there will be any additional information other than those three documents. He desires to improve communications with Kingwood Township, reiterating his offer of a property tour and for any members to contact him with questions or concerns.

PennEast Pipeline – Update

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported PennEast is trying to build only the Pennsylvania half and once built they can force through the New Jersey half. The Lower Delaware Management Committee sent a letter to DRBC indicating they were opposed to the pipeline and would like DRBC to consider the impacts of the entire route, not just the Pennsylvania half when reviewing PennEast's application. Debbie asked the EC members if she should do a similar letter to DRBC from the Kingwood Township Environmental Commission and the members were in agreement that she should do the letter.

ERI Update

Chair Debbie Kratzer is soliciting assistance in reviewing the Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) in order to update it. Lois Voronin suggested forming a subcommittee to work on the various parts of the ERI. Debbie proposed initiating a data request from the Natural Heritage Program however; this incurs a fee. She inquired about the balance of the EC 2020 budget and if there is money available to do this. The EC Secretary was asked to find out the budget information.

Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting News and Update

Sandra McNicol indicated there were no new parcels since the last batch, but perhaps one more closing could happen before the end of the year.

Lois Voronin reported a truck drove onto the Open Space property on Union Road and got stuck. Many heavy vehicles were brought in to remove it and the land was very damaged. She suggested putting information in a future Township newsletter regarding the consequences of destroying property.

Gail Ashley inquired if any complaints had been filed about bears in Kingwood Township. Several members indicated that they had residential damage by bears as well as some of their neighbors. It was discussed that the State keeps track and to call New Jersey Fish and Game to report incidents.

Planning Board News and Updates

Lois Voronin indicated there was not an update.

New Business

Sandra McNicol reported she wanted to initiate a cardboard recycling program in November and December. She spoke to the County Recycling Coordinator and was told that most people mix in other packaging items causing the cardboard not to be recycled properly and the Coordinator felt it wouldn't be worth the effort.

Sandra McNicol attended a Washington Crossing Audubon webinar via Zoom with Dr. Jay Kelly, professor of Environmental Studies at Raritan Valley Community College. She thought he gave a great presentation and suggested the EC host a presentation next year with Dr. Kelly as the speaker.

Adjournment

Sandra McNicol made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 P.M. and seconded by Lois, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Hutton, Secretary