

KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2021
7:30 PM

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Secretary Debra Hutton at 7:40 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 and the Courier News on January 14, 2021. A copy of this Meeting notice was telefaxed to the Express Times and posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on January 2, 2021.

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.

Due to the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic this meeting was conducted by a virtual Zoom meeting. Information on the meeting notice was posted on the Kingwood Township website.

Roll Call

Present

Maureen Syrnick
Mara Tippet
Debbie Kratzer
Gail Ashley
Ralph Celebre
Sandra McNicol
Lois Voronin
Timothy Cahalin
Betsy Combs

Absent

Cynthia Niciecki

Reorganize

Secretary Debra Hutton administered the Oath of Office to Environmental Commission members Gail Ashley, Timothy Cahalin and Ralph Celebre. Cynthia Niciecki was absent and will be sworn in at the next EC meeting.

Nomination for Chairperson for Environmental Commission

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to nominate Debbie Kratzer as Chairperson for the Environmental Commission for 2021.

All present from the Environmental Commission voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.

Chair Debbie Kratzer took over the meeting at this time.

Nomination for Vice Chairperson for Environmental Commission

It was moved by Timothy Cahalin and seconded by Ralph Celebre and carried to nominate Mara Tippet as Vice Chairperson for the Environmental Commission for 2021.

All present from the Environmental Commission voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.

Motion and Approval of Local Newspapers (Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News) for Advertisements for 2021

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Mara Tippet and carried to approve the local newspapers (Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News) for advertisements for 2021.

All present voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.

Motion and Approval of Scheduled Meeting Dates for 2021 - Fourth Tuesday of the Month - Meeting Time to be at 7:30 PM and Conducted as Virtual Zoom Meetings until Further Notice

January 26, 2021	July 27, 2021
February 23, 2021	August 24, 2021
March 23, 2021	September 28, 2021
April 27, 2021	October 26, 2021
May 25, 2021	November 16, 2021 (Third Tuesday)
June 22, 2021	December 21, 2021 (Third Tuesday)

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Timothy Cahalin and carried to approve the annual meeting dates and time for the monthly meetings for the Environmental Commission for 2021.

All present voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

N/A

Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve the December 15, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Mara Tippet and carried to approve the December 15, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- Kratzer, Tippet, Ashley, Celebre, McNicol, Combs
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- Cahalin, Voronin
	Absent	- Niciecki

Correspondence

The ANJEC Annual Membership Renewal notice was discussed and members agreed they want to continue the membership in 2021. The membership fee includes seven members, Chair Debbie Kratzer and Maureen Syrnick indicated they already receive it and Timothy Cahalin opted not to receive it in order to avoid additional costs.

Motion to Request Funding for the 2021 ANJEC Annual Membership, expending \$375 from the EC budget

It was moved by Lois Voronin and seconded by Sandra McNicol to renew the annual ANJEC membership, expending \$375 from the EC budget for this membership.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- Kratzer, Tippet, Ashley, Celebre, McNicol, Cahalin, Voronin, Combs
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- None
	Absent	- Niciecki

Chair Debbie Kratzer reviewed the Application for Letter of Interpretation and Attachment A, 161 Fairview Road, Block 28, Lot 3.10 and Block 28, Lot 3.11 and did not believe there are wetlands on these properties. There were no comments by the members on this correspondence.

Chair Debbie Kratzer reviewed the Board of Adjustment Application Form for 887 Route 12, Frenchtown, Block 9, Lot 24; the Board of Adjustment Notice of Public Hearing and the Attorney Letter: Appeal from Zoning Officer Determination and did not believe there were any environmental implications. There were no comments by the members on this correspondence.

Reports

Chair Debbie Kratzer prepared a draft of the 2021 Environmental Commission Objectives for the members to review. The members indicated they would like to have more coordination and interaction with the Parks and Recreation Committee on the current parks and trails and also when new Open Space is acquired in the Township. Discussion included sustainability of the current trails, environmentally sensitive trail building, disturbance of plants and wildlife and human impact within a preserved area. Also, Mara Tippet, who is a member of the Parks and Recreation Committee, explained the benefits of the soon to be launched Outerspatial application for the Open Space areas included in the application. Debbie agreed to include these items in the 2021 EC Objectives.

Chair Debbie Kratzer wants to begin work on the 2020 Annual Report. Ralph Celebre agreed to provide the Fleet Inventory information. Debbie has information on the tree-planting project and Mara Tippet already provided Debbie with well testing information.

Notice of upcoming meetings/workshops: Reminder of Dates

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted the recycling events that will be held in March: Hazardous Waste on March 6, 2021 and Electronics on March 20, 2021. Sandra McNicol indicated a County paper-shredding event might be scheduled soon. Also, Sandra encouraged members to look at mrtrashwheel.com, a tool for collecting trash in waterways.

Stewardship

Chair Debbie Kratzer wants to prepare a schedule for 2021 stewardship activities. Members tentatively chose the third Wednesday of the month and will look at their calendars and make a final decision on the dates at the next EC meeting.

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported that she completed and submitted final reports for the two grants that the EC received for tree planting: 2020 Roots for Rivers Reforestation Grant and Technical Assistance Program Final Report and 2020 TNC Roots for Rivers Program – Final Report to the Watershed Institute.

Rockfall Mitigation

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported that Richard Dodds was interviewed for a news article on the Rockfall Mitigation project. She will send the links for the articles and encouraged the members to read them.

Sustainable Kingwood – Update

Mara Tippet indicated the Sustainable Kingwood group will be meeting every other month and will identify the next actions they want to work on. Maureen Syrnick reported that Kingwood Township residents should have received a letter indicating they are entering into a new contract with electric selection and can opt in for the 100% renewal option.

Luxfer (MEL) – Update

Gail Ashley indicated there is not an update this month.

PennEast Pipeline – Update

Chair Debbie Kratzer and Maureen Syrnick updated the members that both FERC and the Supreme Court took PennEast off their agendas for now. Timothy Cahalin read an interesting article about the decommissioning of a pipeline with similar circumstances as PennEast. He emailed it to the members and recommended they read it.

ERI Update

Chair Debbie Kratzer received the Natural Heritage Data Request information which will be used in the ERI update. She began updating Chapter One and emailed it to the members to review. Mara Tippettt created a spreadsheet for the members to sign up to work on individual chapters.

Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting News and Update

Sandra McNicol indicated there is not an update this month.

Planning Board News and Updates

Sandra McNicol reported that the Planning Board discussed updating the Master Plan at their last meeting. Also, she noted that the Block 12, Lot 33 property owner wants to add a driveway to the back of their property however, the route would go through a portion of wetlands. There has been ongoing discussion for about a year but pointed out the paperwork has not been reviewed by the EC yet. She is going to send the Secretary the electronic files for discussion at the next EC meeting.

New Business

Sandra McNicol provided The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin for the members to read. She received it from the Hunterdon County Recycling Coordinator Rebecca Lunger.

Mara Tippettt requested suggestions for types of trees to be planted along the parking lot at the Municipal Park. The members discussed the different trees best suited for the area and made a few suggestions.

Sandra McNicol informed the members of the passing of a former longtime Environmental Commission member Joseph Zgurzynski of Kingwood Township in December 2020. The members fondly remembered him.

Adjournment

Lois Voronin made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 P.M. and seconded by Mara Tippettt, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Hutton, Secretary