

KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2021
7:30 PM

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 and the Courier News on February 11, 2021. A copy of this Meeting notice was telefaxed to the Express Times and posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on February 12, 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
Betsy Combs

Absent

Timothy Cahalin
Cynthia Niciecki

Reorganize

Secretary Debra Hutton was unable to administer the Oath of Office to Environmental Commission member Cynthia Niciecki, as she was absent from the meeting. Debbi will inquire as to whether she can be sworn at her convenience outside of the EC regular meetings.

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

N/A

Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve the January 26, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Mara Tippet and carried to approve the January 26, 2021 Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission.

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

Correspondence

Sandra McNicol indicated that the Preliminary and Final Site Plan for 1131 Route 12, Block 6, Lot 20 has not been deemed complete or been presented to the Planning Board yet. Once it has been presented to the Planning Board, some concerns the EC discussed are water usage, green infrastructure and vegetation/landscaping plans.

Reports

Chair Debbie Kratzer began working on the 2020 Annual Report. Ralph Celebre will provide the Fleet Inventory information and Mara Tippettt will provide a summary on Sustainable Kingwood.

Chair Debbie Kratzer finalized the 2021 Environmental Commission Objectives and asked Secretary Debra Hutton to send the Objectives to the Township Committee to keep them informed of what the EC is doing.

Notice of upcoming meetings/workshops: Reminder of Dates

Chair Debbie Kratzer reminded the members of the Electronic Recycling event on March 20, 2021. Mara Tippettt pointed out the flyer that was provided by the County had 2020 instead of 2021 and should be corrected if posted to the Kingwood Township website.

Sandra McNicol inquired if any members looked at mrtrashwheel.com and several did and thought it was very interesting. She informed the members that she attended the Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) meeting and will be working on the tonnage reports as they are starting to be submitted.

Stewardship

The members discussed a schedule for 2021 stewardship activities and chose the third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. beginning on May 19.

Rockfall Mitigation

Chair Debbie Kratzer attended a Zoom meeting with the Devil's Tea Table Alliance, a bi-state organization, to discuss the Rockfall Mitigation Plan on Route 29. They will be meeting via Zoom every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. Debbie will add several members to the invite list, as they are interested in attending the meetings.

Sustainable Kingwood – Update

Mara Tippettt explained that Kingwood Township was awarded the Bronze Certification in 2019 and it is valid until 2022. Recertification is possible prior to this date by doing a few items; the deadline for submission is June 6. She also informed the members there is a virtual Awards Luncheon on March 11 and inquired if any members were interested in attending. Kingwood Township will be recognized for their Bronze Certification in 2019.

Luxfer (MEL) – Update

Gail Ashley indicated there is not an update this month. Chair Debbie Kratzer suggested removing the Luxfer (MEL) Update from the agenda next month if nothing else is received on this topic.

PennEast Pipeline – Update

Chair Debbie Kratzer informed the members that the New Jersey Attorney General and several other groups will be arguing the PennEast case and a ruling is expected in the Spring. The New Jersey Conservation Foundation sent out a letter that summarizes the status of the case and it was shared with the Commission members.

Also, Debbie noted the DRBC will be meeting and voting this Thursday on the temporary moratorium (which has been in place for several years) on fracking in the Delaware River Basin. She is circulating a petition she received to make the ban permanent and inquired if anyone was interested in signing it.

ERI Update

Chair Debbie Kratzer informed the members that several chapters are close to being finished. Also, the spreadsheet is still available for members to sign up to work on and she is looking for assistance with checking and updating web links in the document.

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

Lois Voronin updated the members that the Planning Board is working on a transfer development rights bank. Maureen Syrnick explained that several years ago a COAH plan was needed and the Eastern Gateway Village was conceived designating the existing Business Park on Route 12 as a possible site. If a developer wanted to build in Kingwood Township, they would need to purchase the development rights from the bank and build at the Eastern Gateway Village. The area would include COAH obligations, high-density housing, mixed use, restaurants and possibly a shopping center. Currently, housing isn't in demand in the Township and the plan may never come to fruition however, it is needed to avoid overbuilding and maintaining the rural character of Kingwood Township.

Sandra McNicol reported the property owner settling the estate of Block 12, Lot 33 wants to subdivide the property and add a driveway to access the future lot in the back of this property. The proposed driveway goes through wetlands and the members discussed moving the proposed driveway to follow an existing driveway on the property to lessen the impact to the wetlands area. Chair Debbie Kratzer asked Sandra to draft a memo from the EC to the Planning Board recommending the proposed driveway follow the existing driveway.

New Business

Chair Debbie Kratzer informed the members that Richard Dodds applied for 1,000 free trees again this year. The date is April 24 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and inquired if anyone was interested in helping.

Adjournment

Gail Ashley made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 P.M. and seconded by Ralph Celebre, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Hutton, Secretary