

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

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chair Debbie Kratzer at 7:31 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
Timothy Cahalin
Mara Tippet
Debbie Kratzer
Gail Ashley
Ralph Celebre
Sandra McNicol
Lois Voronin

Absent

Betsy Combs
Cynthia Niciecki

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

Wayne Ingram, whose firm was appointed as Township Engineer in January 2020, was asked to attend the EC meeting to answer questions related to the revised Well Ordinance when that part of the agenda is discussed.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve the February 23, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to approve the February 23, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission.

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

Correspondence

Sandra McNicol expressed interest in applying for the \$1500 ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grant. She suggested two projects: incorporating large rocks and plantings in the drainage ditches by Melnyk Pond to slow the water coming from farm fields and reduce the erosion into the Lockatong Creek; and constructing a Chimney Swift Tower as Kingwood Township will be demolishing buildings where these birds currently reside and this will provide new habitat for them. The members discussed both ideas and decided on the drainage ditch project. They will possibly pursue the Chimney Swift Tower as a separate project at a later date.

Motion to Pursue the 2021 ANJEC Grant for a Vegetated Swale

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Ralph Celebre to apply for the ANJEC Grant in the amount of \$1,500 to construct a vegetated swale in the drainage ditches near Melnick Pond.

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

Chair Debbie Kratzer reviewed the correspondence that was received: Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification, NJDEP Case Number: 21-03-11-2250-44 and the Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District Letter of Certification: Elan Builders Dwelling, Block 24, Lot 2.04. There were no comments on either one.

Reports

Chair Debbie Kratzer indicated she would like to finish the Draft 2020 Annual Report next month. Mara Tippet provided information on Sustainable Kingwood and the Fleet Inventory for the Report.

Notice of upcoming meetings/workshops: Reminder of Dates

Chair Debbie Kratzer informed the members of these upcoming events:

- March 25 at 2:00 – 3:30 pm: Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River Management Council virtual quarterly meeting
- April 15 at 1:00 to 2:00 pm: Raritan Headwaters Webinar: Watershed planning for municipalities: control stormwater, improve water quality and save money
- April 17 at 9:00 am – noon: Raritan Headwaters Stream Cleanup
- April 24 at 9:00 am – 1:00 pm: New Jersey Tree Recovery Program (contact Richard Dodds to volunteer)

Stewardship

Chair Debbie Kratzer indicated activities would be discussed at the next EC meeting for the proposed May 19 date.

Rockfall Mitigation

Chair Debbie Kratzer drafted a memo to the Township Committee to support the adoption of a resolution opposing the Rockfall Mitigation project. Gail Ashley wrote a summary describing Geological Heritage and its importance to protecting and retaining the Route 29 bluffs, which is an attachment to the memo. The members agreed to have the Secretary send the memo to the Township Committee.

Motion to Send a Memo Supporting the Township Committee to Oppose the Rockfall Mitigation Project

It was moved by Lois Voronin and seconded by Mara Tippet to send a memo supporting the Township Committee to oppose the Rockfall Mitigation project.

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

Sustainable Kingwood – Update

N/A

PennEast Pipeline – Update

Chair Debbie Kratzer updated the members that the Supreme Court will hear the case on April 28.

ERI Update

Chair Debbie Kratzer informed the members that Jill Dodds worked on the Biological chapter and Lois Voronin is working on the Groundwater section of the draft Environmental Resource Inventory.

Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting News and Update

Sandra McNicol indicated there is not an update this month.

Planning Board Site Plans, News and Updates

See Block 6, Lot 20 and Block 12, Lot 33 listed below under **Old Business**.

New Business

Chair Debbie Kratzer shared an email with members seeking volunteers to participate in a road salt monitoring project using chloride test strips. Sandra McNicol has chosen two sites but hasn't received the supplies yet.

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported the Kingwood Township Board of Health recently revised the Well Ordinance. Lois Voronin explained that work began on the ordinance in 1995 and was adopted 10 years later after much input from the Environmental Commission, various Boards and the community. The latest revisions were adopted without including the Environmental Commission in the discussion of changing the ordinance. Wayne Ingram, Township Engineer, was asked about the initial request to revise the Well Ordinance as well as an explanation of the changes. He informed the members the changes were based on published data from NJDEP and their standards for requirements for wells, the experience of professionals in the industry and other ordinances from nearby townships. Mara Tippet pointed out that Kingwood Township is not typical of other New Jersey areas as it has slow infiltration and recharge rates with a substantial amount of runoff. One of the main concerns the EC has with the revised Well Ordinance is the elimination of the 3-part pump test or aquifer test for a subdivision of three or less lots. They feel that several of the changes to the Well Ordinance could subject the Township to lawsuits. Lois Voronin asked Wayne Ingram if he reviewed any of the required 3-part pump test or aquifer test reports submitted to the Township before changing the Well Ordinance. He replied he did not review any of the submitted reports. Debbie Kratzer requested that Wayne Ingram supply the EC with the data and reports that were used to base their recommended changes to the Board of Health and Wayne Ingram requested any data the EC had regarding this issue. The EC will work on a draft of their comments regarding the Well Ordinance revisions for discussion at the next EC meeting.

Lois Voronin wants to obtain data on 3-part pump and aquifer tests that were done in the Township. Maureen Syrnick suggested she submit an OPRA request to obtain this data. Lois Voronin spoke to Michele Tipton Walters, Kingwood Township Deputy Clerk, and she indicated the costs could be waived for this OPRA request.

Motion to Submit an OPRA Request to Obtain Data from the 3-Part Pump and Aquifer Well Test Reports from Kingwood Township and Request the Fees are Waived

It was moved by Lois Voronin and seconded by Sandra McNicol to submit an OPRA Request to obtain the scanned data from the 3-part pump and aquifer well test reports that were submitted to the Township and have the fees waived that are associated with this OPRA request.

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

Chair Debbie Kratzer asked Wayne Ingram, Township Engineer, about the recently amended State Stormwater Management Rules. He informed the EC that the Township revised the Stormwater Control Ordinance to conform with the State Stormwater Management Rules and forwarded it to the County for their endorsement. Chair Debbie Kratzer requested the Secretary to send the revised ordinance to the EC members.

Sandra McNicol discussed the EC Site Plan/Subdivision Review form (modeled after the form used by ANJEC) and a copy of a 2008 completed Site Plan/Subdivision Review form. She thought it would be helpful to remind the members of this form and how it is used for reviewing site plans.

Sandra McNicol suggested the EC and the Planning Board discuss the possibility of offering two 2-acre lots that can be developed at one time because of the water supply issues in Kingwood Township. She would like to have a more in-depth discussion at the next EC meeting.

Mara Tippettt inquired if any clean up days were planned for 2021. Sandra McNicol explained that there isn't enough Clean Communities money at this time, however when the grant money is received clean up days could possibly be scheduled later in the year.

Chair Debbie Kratzer asked Mara Tippettt to collect information on plans for building trails, meadows, firebreaks and plantings when she attends the next Parks and Recreation meeting. The EC wants to work more closely with the Parks and Recreation Committee and provide input on environmental issues.

Old Business

Sandra McNicol discussed the property located at 1131 State Highway 12 (Block 6, Lot 20) which will be reviewed at the Planning Board's April 8 meeting. The EC asked her to relay their recommendations at the next Planning Board meeting: replacing non-native plants with native species and incorporating green infrastructure with regard to the detention basin planned on the property. Also, Chair Debbie Kratzer would like to begin work on developing an ordinance requiring planting native species, as one doesn't currently exist.

Sandra McNicol informed the members that she prepared the memo that was discussed at the last EC meeting recommending the proposed driveway follow the existing driveway on Block 12, Lot 33 in order to lessen the impact to the wetlands area on the property. She sent the memo to the Planning Board Chair and Secretary but received no response and does not believe it was forwarded to the applicant.

Adjournment

Timothy Cahalin made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 P.M. and seconded by Sandra McNicol, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Hutton, Secretary