

KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2021
7:30 PM

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chair Debbie Kratzer at 7:33 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
Debbie Kratzer
Gail Ashley
Ralph Celebre
Sandra McNicol
Lois Voronin

Absent

Betsy Combs
Cynthia Niciecki
Mara Tippet

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

N/A

Approval of Minutes

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

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to approve the March 23, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission.

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

Correspondence

Chair Debbie Kratzer reminded members that there are interesting articles in the ANJEC quarterly newsletter and encouraged them to read it.

Reports

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported that she did not work on the Draft 2020 Annual Report since the last EC meeting.

Notice of upcoming meetings/workshops: Reminder of Dates

Wednesday, May 19, 2021: EC Stewardship Activities

Stewardship

The EC members decided they would meet on Wednesday, May 19 at 6 pm to perform Stewardship activities. Chair Debbie Kratzer recommended visiting areas in the Township where trees were previously planted to weed, clean up and remove the unneeded tubes for the trees. She also suggested planting the trees that are in containers on the side of the building at Horseshoe Bend Park if Richard Dodds would be available to help by drilling the holes with his tractor. She noted that she volunteered at the Township Tree Giveaway that was held on April 24.

Rockfall Mitigation

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported that Kingwood Township adopted the resolution that the EC recommended. It was sent to the New Jersey Department of Transportation as well as surrounding towns. She indicated that Hunterdon County also adopted a similar resolution. Maureen Syrnick needs to send Congressman Malinowski information about the Rockfall Mitigation project and Gail Ashley offered to send her documents to forward to him.

Sustainable Kingwood – Update

Ralph Celebre reported that they are up to date with Sustainable Jersey and continue to be at the Bronze Level.

PennEast Pipeline – Update

Chair Debbie Kratzer reminded the members that the Supreme Court would be hearing arguments of the case tomorrow (April 28). She indicated that if the Supreme Court's decision isn't favorable for the Township, there still are several hurdles that will need to be overcome by PennEast in order to move forward with this project.

ERI Update

Chair Debbie Kratzer informed the members that she has not worked on the ERI update however; Jill Dodds has been working on it and completed the Open Space and Farmland chapter. Lois Voronin suggested adding information regarding the Well Ordinance to the ERI such as groundwater recharge rates and maps.

Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting News and Update

Sandra McNicol reported there were no new preservation these past month however; the Oertle property (Farmland Preservation) and Maritan property (Open Space) are imminent.

Planning Board Site Plans, News and Updates

Sandra McNicol informed the members that the property located at 1131 State Highway 12 (Block 6, Lot 20) was discussed at the Planning Board's April 8 meeting. She relayed the recommendations for shrubs, plants and trees for the Route 12 property, which the Environmental Commission members suggested at their last meeting.

New Business: 2-Acre Lots

Sandra McNicol indicated she wanted to discuss the 2-acre minimum lot size in the last Environmental Commission meeting. She explained that landowners could subdivide their property into 2-acre lots along the road frontage as well as having a flag stem off the 2-acre lots to further develop their land behind the 2-acre lots. Because of the questions arising from the revised well ordinance and that a 2-acre lot doesn't allow for many options for an alternate septic system or if a well fails (and a new one needs to be drilled), she feels a discussion with the Planning Board is warranted to discuss the lot size requirement in Kingwood Township. Chair Debbie Kratzer suggested focusing on the revised Well Ordinance and revisiting this subject at a later date, all agreed.

Old Business

The members discussed the changes and methods used by the Township Engineer in revising the Well Ordinance such as recharge values and the 3-part pump test and aquifer test. In light of the water issues in Kingwood Township, the members are concerned that the revised ordinance diminishes the stringency of the original ordinance. Maureen Syrnick suggested the EC prepare a brief memo to the Board of Health alerting them that the EC disagrees with the changes to the Well Ordinance and include a few bullet points and note that they are in the process of gathering data to support their position. Lois Voronin recommended forming a sub-committee to work on detailing the bullet points and compiling the supporting data. Tim Cahalin suggested asking the Board of Health to revert back to the original Well Ordinance until the EC has had a chance to present their comments and supporting data. The EC members decided they would like to present their information at the June 16 Board of Health meeting.

Motion to Prepare a Brief Memo to the Board of Health Regarding the Environmental Commission's Concerns Regarding the Revised Well Ordinance.

It was moved by Lois Voronin and seconded by Ralph Celebre to prepare and submit a memo to the Board of Health regarding the revised Well Ordinance and to present their concerns at the June 16, 2021 Board of Health meeting.

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

Lois Voronin pointed out that she still has not received the 3-part pump test and aquifer test results that she requested from the Township. Maureen Syrnick reported the staff has not yet been trained in using the software to access these reports. The company providing the training has had staffing issues due to Covid-19 and the training has been rescheduled several times. Maureen Syrnick is going to inquire about the rescheduled training.

Tim Cahalin asked if any members had received the most recent report from Luxfer (MEL) and no one indicated they had. He informed them that if he is unable to obtain it from Luxfer then he would request it from NJDEP.

Chair Debbie Kratzer asked Mara Tippet at the last EC meeting to collect information on plans for building trails, meadows, firebreaks and plantings when she attends the next Parks and Recreation meeting. Mara Tippet was not present at tonight's EC meeting therefore this was not discussed.

Adjournment

Sandra McNicol made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 P.M. and seconded by Lois Voronin, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Hutton, Secretary