

KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2021
7:30 PM

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chair Debbie Kratzer at 7:30 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
Debbie Kratzer
Mara Tippet
Gail Ashley
Ralph Celebre
Sandra McNicol
Lois Voronin

Absent

Cynthia Niciecki
Betsy Combs
Timothy Cahalin

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

N/A

Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve the May 25, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Ralph Celebre and carried to approve the May 25, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission.

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

Correspondence

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported a memo regarding the Master Plan Reexamination was received from David Banisch, Kingwood Township Planner. Mara Tippettt pointed out the new requirements for the Climate Vulnerability Assessment, which was signed into law in February 2021, is not included in this memo. Gail Ashley commented that septic system information is included in the memo however; groundwater is not. Lois Voronin read aloud a portion of the 2011 Periodic Reexamination Report of the Master Plan and Development Regulations regarding groundwater yields and wells however; the 2018 Reexamination doesn't mention this and feels it should be addressed in this reexamination. Lois Voronin thought David Banisch would be attending the July 8, 2021 Planning Board meeting to discuss the Master Plan Reexamination and perhaps EC members should attend this meeting as well. Debbie Kratzer indicated she would prepare a memo to the Planning Board and the Township Committee suggesting that the groundwater and well information and the Climate Vulnerability Assessment are included in the Master Plan update.

Motion to Prepare a Memo to the Planning Board and the Township Committee with Environmental Commission Suggestions to the Master Plan Update

It was moved by Lois Voronin and seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to approve the preparation of a memo which would be sent to the Planning Board and Township Committee suggesting that the groundwater and well information and the Climate Vulnerability Assessment are included in the Master Plan update.

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

Chair Debbie Kratzer reviewed an application for NJDEP Statewide General Permit #24 for replacing a septic system on the property located at 997 Route 12. There were no comments regarding this application.

Chair Debbie Kratzer reviewed the Hunterdon County Soil Conservation Letter regarding the Hidden Orchard Estates Subdivision (Block 22, Lot 16.05 Compliance Report. There were no comments regarding this application.

Reports

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated that she did not work on the Draft 2020 Annual Report this month.

Notice of Upcoming Meetings/Workshops: Reminder of Dates

Chair Debbie Kratzer alerted the EC members that the ANJEC Annual Conference will be held virtually from October 19 – 22, 2021 and to mark their calendars if anyone is interested in attending.

Stewardship

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported that she and and Ralph Celebre worked on the last Stewardship date (Wednesday, June 16, 2021) removing unneeded tree tubes. Mara stated she weeded the rain garden and added new plants.

Rockfall Mitigation

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported she attends the Rockfall Mitigation meetings and they are attempting to convince NJDOT to pause and reexamine the project. Several EC members discussed the amount of support from citizens, politicians, groups and townships opposing this project however; they have not received an update from NJDOT.

Sustainable Kingwood – Update

Maureen Syrnick reported Kingwood Township re-signed the County Cooperative for electricity. Mara Tippettt mentioned an email received by Kingwood Township regarding Direct Install from the Clean Energy Program. She didn't believe the Township qualified for any additional upgrades in the municipal buildings with this program.

PennEast Pipeline – Update

Chair Debbie Kratzer reminded the EC members that the Supreme Court ruling should be announced by the end of the month. She noted the New Jersey Conservation Foundation wrote talking points for the possible Supreme Court ruling, which can be used if there are inquiries or can be posted on social media. Maureen Syrnick pointed out that a resolution was prepared (using Hopewell Township's resolution as a sample) encouraging the Biden Administration to reverse its support of the PennEast Pipeline's use of eminent domain to take New Jersey property. The resolution will be discussed and possibly adopted at the July 1, 2021 Township Committee meeting.

Environmental Resource Inventory – Update

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported that she did not work on the ERI update because of her classes however; now that classes are done she will be able to work on the update. She noted the update was about 50% complete and the well background and factual information that was prepared for the ordinance will be incorporated into the ERI.

Revised Well Ordinance – Update

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported the subcommittee drafted a document regarding the revised well ordinance and the EC discussed the document. Several EC members offered suggestions to the document such as adding factual information in the form of a comparison chart illustrating the changes between the original and the revised ordinances, a summary supporting why the changes should not have been made, the role of the Environmental Commission and the importance of this issue to the EC. Lois Voronin requested the members send their revisions and suggestions to her and she will incorporate them into the document. The EC members discussed finalizing the document and submitting it to the Board of Health for inclusion on their July 21, 2021 meeting agenda.

Motion for Finalizing the Revised Well Ordinance Document for Submission to the Board of Health

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded Mara Tippet and carried to approve finalizing the revised Well Ordinance document and submitting it to the Board of Health for inclusion on their July 21, 2021 meeting agenda.

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

Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting News and Update

Sandra McNicol reported there were no new preservation however; there are a lot of items being worked on.

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting News and Update

Chair Debbie Kratzer suggested another item should be added to the monthly agenda for the Parks and Recreation Committee and asked Mara Tippet, who is a member of this committee, to provide an update. Mara Tippet reported the Fishing Derby was held on Saturday, June 19, 2021 and that the new playground was now installed at Kingwood Park. Gail Ashley suggested adding educational information to the open space and park kiosks regarding the Emerald Ash Borer and the Lantern Fly.

Planning Board Site Plans, News and Update

Sandra McNicol had no new Planning Board site plans at this time. Lois Voronin reported she reviewed Planning Board meeting minutes from November 2005 when it was agreed to have a study done on water availability and economic factors. Additional minutes indicate a contract was accepted from a hydrologist for grant authorization for a hydrological study. Lois Voronin asked Diane Laudenbach, Planning Board Secretary, to look into whether the study was ultimately performed.

New Business

Chair Debbie Kratzer suggested working on the well water testing and discount septic pumping programs, which usually occur in the Fall. Mara Tippettt noted that bids would be needed for the discount septic system pumping program. In the last few years the well water testing was performed by Raritan Headwaters Association and Chair Debbie Kratzer would like to choose them again this year. Mara Tippettt offered to provide potential dates for the well water testing at the next EC meeting.

Motion to Choose Raritan Headwaters Association Perform the Well Water Testing in the Fall

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded Gail Ashley and carried to approve choosing Raritan Headwaters Association perform the well water testing in the Fall.

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

Old Business

Chair Debbie Kratzer provided two example documents for the EC members to review: Protecting Our Steams Fact Sheet (ANJEC Resource Paper) and Caring For Backyard Conservation Buffers Fact Sheet (Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association). Richard Dodds asked if the EC could prepare something similar that could be disseminated to Kingwood Township property owners. Chair Debbie Kratzer indicated she hasn't begun work on this project yet however; Mara Tippettt stated she has and will send the EC members a draft. Sandra McNicol located a document listing Kingwood Township properties with easements and thinks it is a comprehensive list.

Adjournment

Lois Voronin made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 P.M., seconded by Ralph Celebre, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Hutton, Secretary