

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

Call to Order

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

Absent

Cynthia Niciecki
Ralph Celebre

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

N/A

Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve the June 22, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to approve the June 22, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission.

All present from the Environmental Commission voted Aye on Roll Call Vote with the exception of Timothy Cahalin and Betsy Combs who abstained.

Correspondence

Chair Debbie Kratzer pointed out that the ANJEC website contains previous webinars on their YouTube channel and wanted to alert the EC members in case they were interested in them.

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted the Volunteer Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement form needs to be signed by EC members as well as other volunteers if they plan to participate in Kingwood Township activities. Maureen Syrnick explained this is the insurance company's form and they strongly suggested its implementation. Lois Voronin stated she had questions regarding the wording on the form and requested an ANJEC lawyer review it.

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported Kingwood Township adopted Resolution Number 2021-69: Opposing New Jersey State Assembly and Senate Forest Management Bills A-4843/S3549, A-4844/S-3550 and A-4845/S-3548 and she thanked the Township for preparing the resolution.

Chair Debbie Kratzer reviewed a Letter of Interpretation for 62 Fairview Road, Block 14, Lots 39, 39.03, 39.04. She also prepared a map which showed the wetlands on the property and shared it with EC members.

Reports

Chair Debbie Kratzer prepared a draft of the 2020 Environmental Commission Annual Report and asked Maureen Syrnick to update the electric co-op section and Sandra McNicol offered to update the recycling section. Once those sections are completed, the EC would like to submit it to the Township Committee.

Motion to Update the Environmental Commission Annual Report and Submit it to the Township Committee

It was moved by Mara Tippet and seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to approve the update of the Environmental Commission Annual Report and submit it to the Township Committee.

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

Notice of Upcoming Meetings/Workshops: Reminder of Dates

Chair Debbie Kratzer announced the Board of Health Meeting will be held on August 18 at 7:00 pm and the letter the EC submitted regarding the revised Well Ordinance will be discussed at this meeting.

Chair Debbie Kratzer reminded 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.

Sandra McNicol informed the EC members the 4th Annual Delaware River Cleanup will be held from 8 am to noon on September 18, 2021. When she receives more information, she will add it to the Kingwood Township web site.

Stewardship

Debbie Kratzer stated that she and Betsy Combs weeded the rain garden on the July 21 Stewardship date. The next dates are August 18 (which is the same day as the Board of Health meeting) and September 15.

Rockfall Mitigation

Chair Debbie Kratzer learned from the Devil's Tea Table Alliance that the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority's FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program includes rockfall mitigation projects and is seeking public comment through August 4, 2021. Chair Debbie Kratzer would like to use Kingwood Township's resolution opposing the rockfall mitigation project and repurpose it as a letter from the Environmental Commission and submit it during the public comment period.

Motion to Prepare a Public Comment Letter from the Environmental Commission and Submit it to the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority

It was moved by Timothy Cahalin and seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to approve the preparation of a public comment letter from the EC for submission to the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority.

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

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted an email was received from William Miller of Dewberry, a New Jersey Department of Transportation consultant, asking for information on the historical and cultural significance of the rockfall mitigation project area. Several members made suggestions of who might be able to provide the consultant with information and Chair Debbie Kratzer agreed to respond to his request with some general information and possible contacts for him to follow up with.

Sustainable Kingwood – Update

Mara Tippet reported that the group is on summer break and will reconvene in September. Chair Debbie Kratzer mentioned she would like to do a water project which would incorporate the information from the Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI), but the ERI must be completed first.

PennEast Pipeline – Update

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported the Supreme Court ruled in favor of PennEast (5-4) and PennEast can now move forward on their application and legal challenges that had been pending. She noted there are still several hurdles PennEast must overcome before they are able to build the pipeline. She stated Kingwood Township adopted a resolution (Number 2021-86) calling on several politicians to continue to oppose the PennEast pipeline project.

Environmental Resource Inventory – Update

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported that Jill Dodds has been helping her and hopes to have chapters for members to review next month.

Revised Well Ordinance – Update

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported that she sent the Well Ordinance letter to the Kingwood Township Board of Health and it will be discussed at their August 18, 2021 meeting as they are not having a July meeting. The members decided to have Chair Debbie Kratzer represent the Environmental Commission at the BOH meeting. The Well Ordinance subcommittee also prepared a shorter Executive Summary of the letter and the members discussed revisions, as well as, who it should be sent to.

Motion to Send an Email to the Secretary and Chair of the Board of Health, the Chair of the Planning Board and the Kingwood Township Mayor with an Executive Summary of the Well Ordinance Letter as an Attachment

It was moved by Gail Ashley and seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to approve emailing the Executive Summary of the Well Ordinance letter to the Secretary and Chair of the Board of Health, the Chair of the Planning Board and the Kingwood Township Mayor.

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

Well Water Testing and Septic System Pumping

Mara Tippettt indicated she needs to update last year's information for the well testing and discount septic pumping for this year's Fall mailing and will do so once a bid is approved for the septic pumping. Castle Septic Service provided the only bid however, several bids were solicited for the discount pumping program. Several members relayed that they had similar experiences when trying to get multiple bids for other goods/services.

Motion to Approve Castle Septic Service as the Purveyor for the 2021 Discount Septic Pumping Program at the Rate Provided in their Bid

It was moved by Mara Tippettt and seconded by Timothy Cahalin and carried to approve Castle Septic as the purveyor for the 2021 discount septic pumping program at the rate provided in their bid of \$300 plus tax for a standard 1,000-gallon tank (\$.30 a gallon over 1000 gallons).

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

Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting News and Update

Sandra McNicol reported there is money available for farmland preservation and explained how the program works and why it is important. She also noted there will be information in the Fall mailing and if any members know of someone whose property could be preserved to encourage them to contact Liz Schmid or Hunterdon Land Trust.

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting News and Update

Mara Tippettt reported there is a new water bottle filling station at the Park, which was dedicated to Alfie Grillo. Sandra McNicol asked if there has been any discussion at the Parks and Recreation meetings regarding installing signage about dogs being off-leash by Melnyk Pond. Mara Tippettt reported that there has been discussion of putting signs up for other issues and will relay the leash request at the next meeting.

Planning Board Site Plans, News and Update

Sandra McNicol had no new updates at this time.

New Business

Chair Debbie Kratzer made a few improvements to the Environmental web pages on the Kingwood Township web site and asked the members to provide her with any suggestions for other information to post.

Old Business

Chair Debbie Kratzer submitted a memo from the EC to the Planning Board and Township Committee regarding the Master Plan Reexamination. She asked if the memo was discussed at the last Planning Board meeting and Maureen Syrnick stated it was discussed along with the need to prioritize the work as there isn't enough money in this year's Planning Board budget to address all the elements at once.

Chair Debbie Kratzer reviewed the Conservation Easement brochure drafted by Mara Tippettt. She had a few suggestions and Mara indicated to send any comments to her and she will incorporate them and send the revised brochure to the members and Richard Dodds for review and comments.

Adjournment

Mara Tippettt made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 P.M., seconded by Sandra McNicol, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Hutton, Secretary