

KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2021

7:30 PM

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chair Debbie Kratzer at 7:32 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
Sandra McNicol
Lois Voronin
Ralph Celebre
Timothy Cahalin

Absent

Cynthia Niciecki
Betsy Combs

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

Chair Debbie Kratzer welcomed Priscilla Hayes to the meeting, a new Kingwood Township resident who expressed interest in the Environmental Commission via an email to the Township. Priscilla's career was environment-related and she was involved with the Environmental Commission in her former town.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve the August 24, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission

It was moved by Mara Tippet and seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to approve the August 24, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission.

All present from the Environmental Commission voted Aye on the Roll Call Vote with the exception of Tim Cahalin and Ralph Celebre who were absent at last month's meeting.

Correspondence

N/A

Reports

Chair Debbie Kratzer completed the 2020 Annual Report and will send it to the Township Committee. She requested the EC Secretary send it to all the Township Board secretaries requesting they forward it to their members.

Notice of Upcoming Meetings/Workshops: Reminder of Dates

Chair Debbie Kratzer alerted the members that the next Board of Health meeting will be held on October 20, 2021 and the well ordinance will be discussed again at this meeting.

Sandra McNicol reported that she will be attending the Hunterdon County Planning Board's Virtual Breakfast Symposium on Wednesday, September 29, 2021 from 7:30 am – 9:00 am.

Sandra McNicol alerted the EC members that the 4th Annual Delaware River Cleanup has been postponed to October 16, 2021 due to flooding that occurred from Storm Ida.

Sandra McNicol stated the Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space and the New Jersey Invasive Strike Team is holding a workshop on October 13, 2021 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm if any EC members are interested in attending.

Chair Debbie Kratzer reminded the EC members that the ANJEC Annual Conference will be held virtually from October 19 – 22, 2021 and the cost is \$25. Gail Ashley and Ralph Celebre indicated they were interested in attending and Chair Debbie Kratzer suggested their registration fee be reimbursed from the Environmental Commission budget.

Motion to Reimburse Gail Ashley and Ralph Celebre the \$25 Registration Fee from the Environmental Commission's Budget to Attend the ANJEC Annual Conference

It was moved by Lois Voronin and seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to approve that Gail Ashley and Ralph Celebre be reimbursed the \$25 fee for attending the ANJEC Conference.

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

Stewardship

Debbie Kratzer stated there wasn't anyone that participated in the September 15th Stewardship date. The EC members decided the next Stewardship date will be on Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 4:00 pm. The EC Secretary reminded the EC members that they need to submit a Volunteer Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement prior participating.

Rockfall Mitigation

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated there is a web site, devilsteatablealliance.org, and encouraged the EC members to look at it for more information. Maureen Syrnick suggested writing to Congressman Tom Malinowski and Chair Debbie Kratzer agreed to draft a letter to the him regarding the unwanted and unnecessary project and to use the federal funds on more urgent projects relating to climate change mitigation and the recent flooding that occurred from Storm Ida.

Sustainable Kingwood

Mara Tippet explained she will have well test kits available at the Kingwood Township building on Saturday, October 2 (9 am-noon) and Tuesday, October 5 (5 pm-7 pm) and samples will be collected from residents on Wednesday, October 6 (7 am-9:30 am). She stated the well testing information, summary data and lead/drinking water awareness information needs to be posted to the Township web site in order to apply for Sustainable Jersey action points.

PennEast Pipeline

Chair Debbie Kratzer announced the very welcome news that the PennEast pipeline is not going to be constructed in New Jersey. The EC members agreed that this was very good news.

Environmental Resource Inventory

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated that she has five draft chapters that she feels are ready for review. She asked the EC members if she should post these on the EC web page and they agreed it would be helpful in order to review it.

Revised Well Ordinance

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported that although nothing was voted on or changed at the September 22, 2021 Board of Health (BOH) meeting, the BOH was receptive to further discussion which will occur at their next meeting in October. Sandra McNicol suggested the BOH should prepare a new well ordinance with the language of the original well ordinance and have it introduced at the October BOH meeting in order to keep the process moving forward. The EC members agreed, stating that discussion and public comment regarding the newly introduced well ordinance would then be able to occur at the October BOH meeting.

Well Water Testing and Septic System Pumping

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated the well water testing and discounted septic system pumping information was disseminated in the Fall mailing. Mara Tippettt indicated she is going to do more outreach because there have been more E. Coli failures due to the recent flooding that occurred from Storm Ida.

Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting News

Sandra McNicol reported there were a number of properties waiting to be preserved and now that the PennEast Pipeline project is not moving forward, they can pursue preserving them once again.

Sandra McNicol stated she has observed the Melnyk Pond area has had herbicide sprayed around the base of many trees and is questioning the need for this. Maureen Syrnick said she will inquire as to why this is being done.

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting News

Mara Tippettt explained the September Parks and Recreation Committee meeting was canceled because of Storm Ida. She will inquire at the next meeting about the process of trail planning/building as several members expressed concern over the abundance of trails being established in Kingwood Township and the sustainability of maintaining them.

Planning Board Site Plans, News

Lois Voronin reported the Planning Board was inquiring about the amount of water a microbrewery would use and the EC members felt the business owner would need to supply that information based on many factors such as the size of their brewery and production.

New Business

Chair Debbie Kratzer explained the "Delaware River (NJ and PA) Environmental Nonprofit Seeking New Committee Members" article, posted by the Delaware River Greenway Partnership, is for the members' information if they are interested. She stated Richard Dodds is a member and keeps Kingwood Township informed.

Old Business

Chair Debbie Kratzer asked the EC Secretary for the EC budget balance (\$322.28) now that the Fall mailing has been completed. The EC Secretary reported that the final printing and postage invoices for the Fall mailing have not been received yet therefore the budget doesn't reflect those charges. The EC Secretary also noted a \$90 charge for the Engineering firm to review the EC memo regarding the revised well ordinance for the Board of Health meeting. The EC members did not agree with this deduction and asked the EC Secretary to find out why the EC was charged for this. Chair Debbie Kratzer indicated she would like to use some of the EC budget to purchase additional trees for a Fall planting but is unsure if there is enough money left in the EC budget for this. The members discussed the possibility of receiving a donation of trees as an alternative to using the remaining money in the EC budget.

Adjournment

Gail Ashley made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 P.M., seconded by Ralph Celebre, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Hutton, Secretary