

KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 26, 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
Sandra McNicol
Ralph Celebre
Gail Ashley

Absent

Cynthia Niciecki
Betsy Combs
Mara Tippet
Lois Voronin
Timothy Cahalin

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted “Danielle” from the public was present on the Zoom call and welcomed her to introduce herself however, she decided not to do unmute herself and left the meeting after about an hour. Also, Priscilla Hayes joined the meeting at 7:53 pm; she attended the last EC meeting as she is interested in the Environmental Commission.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve the September 28, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Ralph Celebre and carried to approve the September 28, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission.

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

Correspondence

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated a Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District Report of Compliance letter was received for Block 25, Lot 7 (136 Kingwood Locktown Road). There were no comments regarding this letter.

Chair Debbie Kratzer reviewed the final site plan application Block 35, Lot 6 (343 County Road 519, The Black Shed) and Maureen Syrnick reported that the application was withdrawn therefore no discussion was needed for this.

Chair Debbie Kratzer reviewed the Application for Letter of Interpretation for the Footprint of Disturbance for Block 17, Lot 17 (465 Barbertown-Point Breeze Road). She noted that about half of the lot is wetlands. She indicated the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection will assess the application and inform the owners if they can proceed.

Reports

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted that the ANJEC Annual Conference was held virtually from October 19 – 22, 2021. Ralph Celebre reported that he attended some of the sessions and thought there were some projects that Kingwood Township could work on such as a Clean Energy Action Plan and incorporating Climate Action into the Master Plan.

Notice of Upcoming Meetings/Workshops: Reminder of Dates

Chair Debbie Kratzer alerted the EC members that the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Management Council will hold a meeting on Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 10:00 am.

Sandra McNicol reported the County Hazardous Waste Day will be December 11, 2021 at the County offices. Also, the last Kingwood Township large item cleanup day will be November 20, 2021 and registration must be done online.

Stewardship

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted that a few EC members participated in the October 21st Stewardship day by straightening tree tubes along Lockatong Creek in Kingwood Park.

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported that Richard Dodds sent an email requesting input from the EC regarding the identification, removal and prevention of invasive species (plants and insects) within Kingwood Township parks. Gail Ashley suggested forming a subcommittee of individuals who have an expertise in plants might be helpful. Ralph Celebre offered to contact the New Jersey Department of Agriculture to inquire if they have a Spotted Lantern Fly plan. Chair Debbie Kratzer asked EC members to think about this so they can advise the Parks and Recreation Committee.

At last month's meeting, Sandra McNicol noted that it appeared herbicide had been sprayed around the base of many trees in the Melnyk Pond area. Maureen Syrnick checked with the Kingwood Township Department of Public Works and was told that the grass was mowed very short around the trees making it look brown but no herbicide was applied.

Rockfall Mitigation

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported there wasn't a meeting this past month and there is no update at this time.

PennEast Pipeline

Chair Debbie Kratzer suggested the EC send thank you notes to people who helped Kingwood Township oppose the PennEast pipeline project such as the Township Committee members, County Commissioners and Congressman Tom Malinowski. The EC members thought it was a good idea and Chair Debbie Kratzer offered to write the notes.

Environmental Resource Inventory

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported that she created a web page on the Kingwood Township website and posted the completed draft chapters of the Environmental Resource Inventory for EC members to review.

Revised Well Ordinance

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported Vincent Uhl, Kingwood Township Hydrogeologist, attended the October 20, 2021 Board of Health meeting. Vincent Uhl prepared a memo that reviewed the revised well ordinance and the comments of the Environmental Commission and the Township Engineer and that he basically supported the EC's position of reverting back to the original ordinance. Chair Debbie Kratzer stated the Board of Health agreed to introduce a well ordinance that would be similar to the well ordinance that was in place at the beginning of 2021 at their next meeting in November and it could possibly be voted on at their December meeting.

Well Water Testing and Septic System Pumping

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated Mara Tippet was unable to attend the EC meeting however, she emailed that 52 Kingwood Township residents participated in the well water testing program this year; the largest number of participants ever.

Sustainable Kingwood

Ralph Celebre reported that he and Mara Tippet have not met recently, but will plan a meeting soon.

Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting News

Sandra McNicol reported she is working with Richard Dodds on a list of properties for possible open space preservation.

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting News

No update was provided as Mara Tippet was absent from the EC meeting.

Planning Board Site Plans, News

No update was provided as Sandra McNicol reported she was absent at the last Planning Board meeting and Lois Voronin was absent from the EC meeting.

New Business

Priscilla Hayes (a member of the public) indicated she would like to speak to Sandra McNicol about two parcels of land near her property which she believes is forested wetlands and would like to see it preserved as open space if possible. Chair Debbie Kratzer will provide Priscilla's contact information to Sandra McNicol for further discussion.

Old Business

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated the balance of the 2021 EC budget is \$307.75 now that the final printing and postage invoices for the Fall mailing have been received and the \$90 charge for the Engineering firm to review the EC's revised well ordinance memo for the Board of Health meeting was reimbursed from last month. The EC members discussed ideas for next year's budget including a Spring planting.

Sandra McNicol reported there is a Scout interested in building the Chimney Swift Tower and she indicated the Scout was confident it could be finished by April 2022.

Adjournment

Sandra McNicol made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm, seconded by Gail Ashley, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Hutton, Secretary