

# KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## Regular Meeting Minutes

November 16, 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 pm. 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  
Lois Voronin  
Gail Ashley  
Betsy Combs

#### **Absent**

Cynthia Niciecki  
Timothy Cahalin  
Mara Tippet  
Ralph Celebre

### Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted Priscilla Hayes from the public was present on the Zoom call. Priscilla is interested in joining the Environmental Commission if a vacancy is available. Chair Debbie Kratzer explained there currently are no openings however, Sustainable Jersey is looking for volunteers. Priscilla indicated she would like to focus her attention on the EC.

### Approval of Minutes

#### **Motion to Approve the October 26, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission**

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to approve the October 26, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission as corrected.

Under Revised Well Ordinance, the October 26, 2021 minutes state:

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.

Correction:

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated the Board of Health agreed to introduce a well ordinance that would be **the same as** 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.

All present from the Environmental Commission voted Aye on the Roll Call Vote with the exception of Lois Voronin and Elizabeth Combs who were absent at last month's meeting and abstained.

### **Correspondence**

N/A

### **Reports**

N/A

### **Notice of Upcoming Meetings/Workshops: Reminder of Dates**

Chair Debbie Kratzer reminded the EC members that the Board of Health meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 7:30 pm at the Kingwood Township Municipal Building and that the last Board of Health meeting for 2021 will be December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated the last 2021 Kingwood Township Cleanup Day will be Saturday, November 20, 2021 however, Sandra McNicol reported they are full; she also reported the County Hazardous Waste Day will be Saturday, December 11, 2021 at the County Road Department, located on Route 12 at the County Complex.

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

Chair Debbie Kratzer also noted the last EC meeting will be December 21<sup>st</sup> and to let the EC Secretary know if any members cannot attend so she knows if there will be enough members for a quorum.

### **Stewardship**

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported that the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Mini-Grant Program is accepting applications through January 7, 2022. The EC members discussed several possible projects such as a brochure or StoryMap of the geology and historical importance of the Devil's Tea Table with regard to the Rockfall Mitigation project. Priscilla Hayes mentioned a guide for new Kingwood Township homeowners.

Sandra McNicol suggested updating a guide the Delaware Riverkeeper developed (they no longer produce it) for homeowners who have streamside properties. Sandra McNicol also suggested a project to maintain the Union Park walking trail as it washes out with heavy rainfalls. Chair Debbie Kratzer advised that any ideas would need to be fleshed out before the EC's December meeting so that it could be presented to the Kingwood Township Committee.

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted that at the last Stewardship day they straightened the trees using tree tubes, but thought using tree stakes would be more helpful. Chair Debbie Kratzer reached out to Richard Dodds to see if there were any extra available from the Department of Public Works, but he hasn't responded yet. There is money in the EC budget and she inquired about using funds for purchasing tree stakes if there are none available from the DPW. Several members discussed the process for making purchases. The EC secretary was asked to inquire about the process.

### **Motion for the EC Secretary to Inquire about the Purchasing Process and Begin the Process of Purchasing Tree Stakes to Straighten Previously Planted Trees Spending a Maximum of \$150 from the Environmental Commission Budget**

It was moved by Lois Voronin and seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to approve to begin the process of purchasing tree stakes (if necessary) and spending no more than \$150 from the Environmental Commission Budget.

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

### **Rockfall Mitigation**

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported there hasn't been an update from the New Jersey Department of Transportation however, she has observed survey trucks at the location on numerous occasions.

### **PennEast Pipeline**

Chair Debbie Kratzer suggested the EC send thank you notes to people who helped Kingwood Township oppose the PennEast pipeline project at the last EC meeting however, she has not worked on this yet, but will soon.

### **Environmental Resource Inventory**

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported she hasn't worked on this during the past month however, she indicated she is about half way done. Lois Voronin reported that she made some edits.

### **Revised Well Ordinance**

Chair Debbie Kratzer reminded the members that the Board of Health voted to not re-codify the January 2021 revised well ordinance at their last meeting as they decided to revert to the original ordinance (pre-2021). They also voted to write a new ordinance that would change it back to what it was originally before the well ordinance was revised in the beginning of 2021. Maureen Syrnick reported that the ordinance was sent to Katrina Campbell, Kingwood Township attorney, for review however, the new ordinance will not be Introduced until January 2022. Maureen Syrnick explained there has been several delays such as the law office attending the League of Municipalities convention and an attorney was quarantined for 14 days due to Covid-19. Also, Richard Dodds and Katrina Campbell agreed to take the time to make certain everything is correct and that all the attached schedules need to be reviewed. Several EC members were very upset with the news of this delay.

### **Well Water Testing and Septic System Pumping**

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported that the EC Secretary contacted Castle Septic and learned that 26 residences participated in the discount pumping program. Sandy McNicol reported she participated and was very satisfied with the service.

### **Sustainable Kingwood**

No update was provided as Mara Tippet and Ralph Celebre were absent from the EC meeting.

### **Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting News**

Sandra McNicol reported that the 48.5-acre DeSapio property (Block 6, Lot 11) and the 26-acre Kollmer property (Block 6, Lot 7) were preserved in October. Chair Debbie Kratzer consulted the draft Environmental Resource Inventory and reported that 2,067 acres were preserved as open space and 2,839 acres were preserved as farmland as of August 2021.

### **Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting News**

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

### **Planning Board Site Plans, News**

Sandra McNicol reported that the Planning Board is still exploring zoning changes for the commercial areas and will be sending it to David Banisch, Kingwood Township Planner, for his input. Lois Voronin noted the Master Plan re-examination is being worked on by David Banisch as well.

### **New Business**

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted a suggestion at last month's EC meeting from Gail Ashley which is to form a subcommittee on plants as a follow-up to a memo sent to the EC from Richard Dodds regarding invasive species in Kingwood Township parks. Gail Ashley thought there were Kingwood Township individuals with plant expertise who could help with regard to trail placement such as positioning of trails near streams and vegetated drainages, and the impacts of vegetation to preserve soil. Chair Debbie Kratzer suggested a speaker to attract individuals who don't normally attend EC meetings and Lois Voronin suggested a targeted invitation to individuals who are known to have this expertise to help with this initiative.

Sandra McNicol noted that there should be a discussion regarding meeting in-person or virtually via Zoom in 2022 at the next EC meeting in December.

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported that in Hopewell Township where pipelines are located near stream crossings, there were several that were severely eroded after Tropical Storm Ida. She suggested perhaps Kingwood Township should perform inspections of pipelines for erosion near stream crossings after storms occur. Chair Debbie Kratzer offered to work on determining where the pipelines and stream crossings are located, and would like to discuss this topic at the next EC meeting.

Lois Voronin reported that John Mathieu asked her to find out who was going to be the Environmental Commission representative for the Board of Health's well ordinance subcommittee. The members decided they will wait to see what is discussed and decided upon at the next Board of Health meeting on Wednesday, November 17, 2021.

#### **Adjournment**

Sandra McNicol made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 pm, seconded by Lois Voronin, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debra Hutton, Secretary