

KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2022
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 10, 2022. A copy of this Meeting notice was telefaxed to the Express Times and posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on February 16, 2022.

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. All persons are requested to utilize the microphones which are provided for your use through your computer or phone if the meeting is being held virtually or by the Township if the meeting is being held in-person. 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

Debbie Kratzer
Maureen Syrnick
Lois Voronin
Mara Tippet
Ralph Celebre
Betsy Combs
Sandra McNicol
Gail Ashley

Absent

Timothy Cahalin
Cynthia Niciecki

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

Jack MacConnell, Richard Dodds and Priscilla Hayes were present on the Zoom meeting. Richard Dodds was invited by Chair Debbie Kratzer to speak about the restoration of the William Lindsay White House located at Horseshoe Bend Park East. Richard Dodds explained two grants, one from Hunterdon County and one from the New Jersey Historic Trust, were received for the initial restoration of the White House (exterior improvements to seal the envelope of the building). The NJHT grant requires a 100% matching amount in which the Hunterdon County grant and monies from the Open Space tax could be used for the match. Prior to accepting the NJHT grant, the White House needs to be registered as a historic site. Kingwood Township needs to decide if it wants the historic designation prior to July 14, 2022 when the New Jersey Review Board for Historic Sites meets to register it as a historic site.

The EC asked questions such as the future uses of the White House, alternative renovation plans other than historic restoration, and will future White House restoration projects need to follow historic guidelines if the historic grant is accepted. EC members discussed how the Open Space tax is currently being spent, balancing the use of the Open Space tax for restoration of historic sites as well as preserving land and spending Open Space tax money on one large restoration project instead of many smaller projects.

Lois Voronin made a motion for the EC to write a letter to the Kingwood Township Committee in support of accepting the grant and begin restoration to seal the building. Mara Tippet seconded the motion however, several members stated they had not been to the White House and were uncomfortable with voting before visiting the building. The EC members decided to table the motion until the next EC meeting after they visit the White House.

Motion to Table the Motion to Write a Letter to the Kingwood Township Committee in Support of Accepting the Grant until after EC Members Visit the White House

It was moved by Lois Voronin and seconded by Ralph Celebre and carried to approve the tabling of the motion to write a letter to the Kingwood Township Committee In support of accepting the grant money until the next EC meeting which would give members an opportunity to visit the White House.

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

Jack MacConnell stated he would like to remove the dog waste bags at Horseshoe Bend Park as people are leaving them on the trails and not disposing of them properly. Jack MacConnell informed the EC that there are invasive species taking over the milkweed patch at Horseshoe Bend Park. Mara Tippet suggested removing the invasive species at the next Stewardship Day, which is scheduled for Wednesday, June 8, 2022.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve the April 26, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission

It was moved by Lois Voronin and seconded by Mara Tippet and carried to approve the April 26, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission.

All present from the Environmental Commission voted Aye on the Roll Call Vote except for Sandra McNicol who was absent at last month's meeting and abstained.

Correspondence

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted the official memo regarding Open Public Meetings Act Guidance was received from Katrina Campbell, Kingwood Township Attorney, who previously sent this information as an email. This topic was discussed at last month's meeting.

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted a Notice of Violation was received for 56 Old Route 12, Block 9, Lot 21. Maureen Syrnick explained the property owners were observed piling dirt along the Lockatong Creek. There is no action required from the EC however, Chair Debbie Kratzer thought it was a good reminder of one of the many NJDEP regulations.

Reports

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported the Environmental Commission's 2021 Annual Report has been completed. The EC members had no additional changes.

Motion to Finalize the Environmental Commission's 2021 Annual Report and Submit it to the Kingwood Township Committee

It was moved by Lois Voronin and seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to approve the update of the Environmental Commission's 2021 Annual Report and submit it to the Kingwood Township Committee.

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

Notice of Upcoming Meetings/Workshops: Reminder of Dates

Chair Debbie Kratzer reminded the EC members of Stewardship Day on Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at 6 pm.

Stewardship

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated Stewardship Day will held Wednesday, June 8 at 6 pm at Horseshoe Bend Park to remove invasive species. Maureen Syrnick offered one of her tools that easily removes invasive species to the members for their use on June 8th.

Rockfall Mitigation

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported that West Amwell passed a resolution opposing the Rockfall Mitigation project. Chair Debbie Kratzer attended a presentation by Steve Freeman (The Devil's Tea Table Alliance) at Delaware Township in the hopes that Delaware Township will pass a resolution opposing the project as well. Maureen Syrnick explained the Hunterdon County Commissioners released a plan promoting tourism in the county which includes tourism trails (Beer Trail, 579 Trail) and the Delaware River Scenic Byway and how the Rockfall Mitigation project could negatively impact the Delaware River Valley.

Environmental Resource Inventory

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated she hasn't worked on the ERI during the past month however, she indicated she will soon.

Revised Well Ordinance

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported there is no update on the Well Ordinance Subcommittee as there hasn't been a recent Board of Health meeting.

Sustainable Kingwood

Mara Tippet reported the Sustainable Jersey recertification was submitted this week however, there is additional documentation that needs to be done by August.

Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committees Meeting News

Sandra McNicol reported she is working with Maureen Syrnick on a list of Open Space projects that are in progress and their status. She is also working on a signage project that identifies Kingwood Township owned preserved properties.

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting News

Mara Tippet reported the Senior Picnic will be held on June 6 and the Fishing Derby is scheduled for June 18, 2022. While speaking with a stream restoration company working on a project in Kingwood Township, Maureen Syrnick learned that wood chips are a pollutant according to the NJDEP and fines can be levied if they are found in a stream. She noted wood chips are used on Horseshoe Bend Park trails and should not be used close to a stream.

Planning Board Site Plans, News

Sandra McNicol stated the warehouse project proposed east of the Kingwood Office Park on Route 12 was deemed incomplete by the Planning Board at their last meeting. Chair Debbie Kratzer feels the EC will need to comment on this project however, Sandra McNicol thought comments should wait until there are updated documents to review.

Mara Tippet asked if there was any development in adding the Climate Adaptation to the Master Plan. Maureen Syrnick explained it is not being incorporated at this time due to cost constraints and that this is a re-examination and not an update of the Master Plan.

Recycling and Clean Communities Updates

Maureen Syrnick reported the County is providing a free recycling bin for residents to use in the Kingwood Township building. Maureen Syrnick stated that there have been several mini grants with various groups for road cleanups for the Clean Communities program.

New Business

Chair Debbie Kratzer asked Maureen Syrnick regarding the process for updating the Kingwood Township website. Maureen stated the Township is working on a new website and once it's in place, there will be a policy for updates.

Old Business

Chair Debbie Kratzer thanked the EC members who helped plant trees on April 30 and May 1 for the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River grant. There will be a dedication of the new trail on June 3, 2022.

Debbi Hutton, EC Board Secretary, reminded EC members that the Volunteer Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement form needs to be filled out prior to volunteer activities.

Chair Debbie Kratzer would like to have Dr. David Robinson's presentation on 'New Jersey's Changing Climate' from the March 28, 2022 EC meeting available on the Kingwood Township website. Since it's a very large file, Maureen Syrnick suggested uploading the file to YouTube or Vimeo and linking to it from the Kingwood Township website.

Adjournment

Ralph Celebre made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 pm, seconded Lois Voronin, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Hutton, Secretary