

KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 28, 2022
7:30 pm

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chair Debbie Kratzer at 7:33 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
Timothy Cahalin
Lois Voronin
Mara Tippet
Ralph Celebre
Betsy Combs
Sandra McNicol

Absent

Maureen Syrnick
Cynthia Niciecki
Gail Ashley

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

Betty DeSapio, Kingwood Township Historian, and Priscilla Hayes were present on the Zoom meeting. Betty DeSapio announced that she is in support of accepting the grant for the restoration of the William Lindsay White House. She stated that by accepting the grant, it does not mean that the Township needs to approve the full restoration project and that the project can proceed in phases and can be discontinued at any time. Chair Debbie Kratzer asked Betty DeSapio if the house needed to be designated as historic before accepting the grant and she did not know the answer.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve the May 24, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to approve the May 24, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission as corrected.

Under Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting News, the May 24, 2022 minutes state:

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.

Addition:

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. **Chair Debbie Kratzer asked Maureen Syrnick if she knew the NJDEP regulation number regarding wood chips and Maureen stated that she did not know. The EC will follow up to determine if there is a regulation regarding wood chips.**

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

Old Business

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted that at last month's EC meeting, 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 of the William Lindsay White House. The EC members decided to table the motion until the next EC meeting which would give them an opportunity to visit the White House. Several EC members toured the White House that following weekend.

Discussion regarding the White House by the EC members included balancing the need to preserve natural areas as well as historic buildings in the Township and by historically restoring the White House it could be more appealing for future uses of the building rather than a modern renovation. Betty DeSapio explained some of the history of the property and building, dating back as far as 1775, prior to William Lindsay White (mid 20th century).

Motion for the Environmental Commission to Write a Letter to the Kingwood Township Committee in Support of Accepting the Grant and Begin Restoration of the William Lindsay White House to Seal the Building

It was moved by Lois Voronin and seconded by Mara Tippet and carried to approve the EC writing a letter to the Kingwood Township Committee In support of accepting the grant and begin restoration to seal the building.

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

Correspondence

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted a letter was received from Goldenbaum Baill Engineering regarding Block 6, Lot 2 concerning a waiver to repair a malfunctioning subsurface sewage disposal system. The EC felt this was sent to them in error and that it should be reviewed by the Board of Health and the Township Engineer. Chair Debbie Kratzer asked Debby Hutton, EC Secretary, to confirm that they received this letter as well and if they did not to forward it to them.

Reports

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted the EC 2021 Annual Report is not yet on the Kingwood Township website. The EC Secretary stated it was emailed after it was approved and followed up this week on the status but hasn't gotten a response yet.

Notice of Upcoming Meetings/Workshops: Reminder of Dates

Chair Debbie Kratzer announced that she received an email alerting her that the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Management Council meeting will be held on June 30 at 10 am if any members wish to attend the meeting.

Also, the Delaware River Greenway Partnerships will hold its Fifth Annual Delaware River Clean Up on September 17, 2022. Registration will be in August if any members are interested in registering for this event.

Stewardship

Chair Debbie Kratzer was joined by Mara Tippet and Betsy Combs on Wednesday, June 8 at Horseshoe Bend Park to remove invasive species for Stewardship Day. The next Stewardship Day is July 13th, and they will do tree tube maintenance. Priscilla Hayes is interested in volunteering and asked about the Volunteer Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement form. Lois Voronin would like Priscilla Hayes' opinion of the form as she is a former attorney. The EC Secretary will email it to Priscilla Hayes and she will review the form.

Chair Debbie Kratzer received an email from a MEL/Luxfer employee regarding participating in a staff volunteer event. Mara Tippet suggested the EC could host a tree planting or tree tube maintenance event during a Stewardship Day. Mara Tippet also suggested if they had funding available, would they be interested in purchasing some trees to plant. Chair Debbie Kratzer will reply and determine their interests and share the upcoming Stewardship Day dates.

Chair Debbie Kratzer shared the plant list from the Bulls Island Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Grant with the EC members, along with the NJDEP press release of the Inlet Trail opening at Bulls Island Recreation Area on June 3, 2022.

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported that Sandra McNicol observed people parking too close to the Kugler Woods Trail entrance and not in the proper parking area. EC members made suggestions such as moving boulders in front of the entrance or putting a chain or gate across the area to deter people from parking there. Mara Tippet offered to have this issue added to the next Parks and Recreation Committee meeting agenda.

Rockfall Mitigation

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported there is no update on the Rockfall Mitigation project.

Environmental Resource Inventory

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated she worked on the ERI and will continue to work on it in August.

Revised Well Ordinance

Lois Voronin reported there is no update on the Well Ordinance Subcommittee as she emailed Richard Phillips, Board of Health member, but he hasn't responded yet as to when he would be free to meet.

Sustainable Kingwood

Mara Tippet reported they are still waiting for comments from Sustainable Jersey on the application that was submitted for recertification. Ralph Celebre stated he grew 48 milkweed seedlings and he and Mara Tippet will be planting them at the Pollinator Meadow, as this project will count as a Sustainable Kingwood project.

Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committees Meeting News

Sandra McNicol announced that two farms have been preserved but needs to wait until it is discussed at the next Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committees meeting before she can provide details to the EC.

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting News

Mara Tippet reported the Senior Picnic and the Fishing Derby were held in June and the Parks and Recreation Committee is in the process of getting quotes for playground mulch. Chair Debbie Kratzer asked about Kingwood Community Day (usually in September) as the EC has had a table in the past and disseminated information about the Well Testing and Septic Pumping programs. Mara Tippet will inquire about the details of this year's Community Day.

Planning Board Site Plans, News

Sandra McNicol stated there is no update as the last month's Planning Board meeting was canceled.

Recycling and Clean Communities Updates

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated that a spreadsheet of the tonnage report was provided however, it was not summarized and a bit hard to read. Chair Debbie Kratzer read an update provided by Maureen Syrnick (absent from meeting) regarding the Clean Communities program and some topics were: volunteer groups participated in six roadside clean ups, the Eyes of the Wild program was held at Kingwood School and tires from clean ups were removed for recycling.

New Business

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported there is a 180-car parking area planned by the State for the former Cooley property on Route 29. The EC members discussed the safety of this parking area and the possible need for a crosswalk and a lower speed limit for people parking in this lot and crossing Route 29 to access the trail along the Delaware River.

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated this is the time of the year to start planning for the Well Testing and Septic Pumping programs. Mara Tippettt offered to acquire well testing information from Raritan Headwaters Association and the EC Secretary will solicit quotes for the septic pumping program and will be discussed at the next EC meeting.

Adjournment

Mara Tippettt made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm, seconded Lois Voronin, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Hutton, Secretary