

**KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**July 26, 2022**  
**7:30 pm**

**Call to Order**

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chair Debbie Kratzer at 7:31 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  
Timothy Cahalin  
Lois Voronin  
Mara Tippet  
Sandra McNicol  
Cynthia Niciecki

**Absent**

Betsy Combs  
Gail Ashley  
Ralph Celebre

**Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor**

Samantha LaRocca, Raritan Headwaters Well Test Program Manager, was present on the Zoom meeting and explained the details of a community well water testing event if the Kingwood Township Environmental Commission decides to hold one. Samantha LaRocca stated the program would be like last year's and outlined possible October pick-up and drop-off dates. Mara Tippet reported there will be a small price increase for some of the tests; and Glyphosate and Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) tests will be available this year. Mara Tippet reported the deadline for submitting information for the Kingwood Township Fall Newsletter is the end of August. The Well Water Testing Program, Septic Pumping Program and the Medicine Drop Box information will be advertised in the newsletter.

**Motion for the Environmental Commission to Schedule Raritan Headwaters to Offer Discounted Well Water Testing**

It was moved by Timothy Cahalin and seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to approve the EC moving forward with scheduling the Raritan Headwaters Association to offer a discounted community well water testing event.

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

Priscilla Hayes was present on the Zoom meeting. At the last EC meeting she offered to review the Volunteer Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement form and speak to someone at ANJEC regarding the form. Priscilla Hayes explained that ANJEC agreed with her that the form is unreasonable and a deterrent for people to volunteer.

Priscilla Hayes asked how the Kingwood Township Conservation Easement brochure is being distributed, and how Kingwood Township residents are being educated about this topic. Mara Tippet explained it is posted on the Kingwood Township website and there is a desire to distribute it to all residents who have an easement on their property. Mara Tippet volunteered to request an easement inventory from Kingwood Township to determine the costs involved with mailing the brochure to those residents who are impacted.

Maureen Syrnick reported that Green Acres did an inspection on a section of Horseshoe Bend Park that was partially funded by the Green Acres program. She stated a bridge built across wetlands without permits was cited along with other smaller issues within this area of HBP. Maureen Syrnick explained that the smaller issues have been addressed, but is concerned about the one cited bridge and the possibility of additional bridges, trails and buildings being cited and the Township possibly being fined. Moving forward, Maureen Syrnick would like the Environmental Commission to work more closely with the Parks and Recreation Committee to preserve and monitor HBP.

Maureen Syrnick stated Kingwood Township was switched from a Tier B to a Tier A stormwater municipality as there are basically no more Tier B municipalities in New Jersey. She explained this change will cost townships a large amount of money to inventory infrastructure, monitor and provide reporting per State requirements.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

##### **Motion to Approve the June 28, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission**

It was moved by Lois Voronin and seconded by Mara Tippet and carried to approve the June 28, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission.

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

#### **Correspondence**

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported a Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification (NJDEP Case Number 22-07-22-1003-10) was received for Pat's Lawncare located at 233 Barbertown-Point Breeze Rd. She noted follow-up for the notice is usually on the NJDEP's website and will try to go online to determine the outcome.

#### **Reports**

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated Maureen Syrnick requested revisions to the 'Working with the Board of Health' section of the Environmental Commission 2021 Annual Report before it can be posted to the Kingwood Township website. Maureen Syrnick felt it was biased and the EC members discussed possible changes and decided to revise a sentence and remove the last sentence of the first paragraph regarding the revised well ordinance.

##### **Motion to Approve the Revised Environmental Commission 2021 Annual Report as Per the EC Members' Discussion**

It was moved by Timothy Cahalin and seconded by Mara Tippet and carried to approve the Environmental Commission revising the 2021 Annual Report so that it can be posted to the Kingwood Township website.

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

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

Chair Debbie Kratzer reminded the EC members about the Delaware River Greenway Partnerships Fifth Annual Delaware River Clean Up which will be held on September 17, 2022.

### **Stewardship**

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated she was joined by Ralph Celebre and Betsy Combs on Wednesday, July 13 and they did tree tube maintenance. The next Stewardship Day is August 10th, and they will do more tree tube maintenance.

### **Rockfall Mitigation**

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported Delaware Township, NJ and Solebury Township, PA adopted resolutions opposing the Rockfall Mitigation project. Chair Debbie Kratzer asked Maureen Syrnick if there was anything additional that Kingwood Township could do, and Maureen Syrnick replied that the grassroots efforts should continue as it worked for PennEast.

### **Environmental Resource Inventory**

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported that she has not worked on the ERI, but will work on it soon.

### **Revised Well Ordinance**

Lois Voronin reported there is no update on the Well Ordinance Subcommittee. Lois Voronin emailed Richard Phillips, Board of Health member, but he hasn't responded yet when he would be available to meet. She will email him again.

### **Sustainable Kingwood**

Mara Tippet reported they received comments from Sustainable Jersey on the recertification application and they are updating and providing additional documentation. Mara Tippet believes if the Sustainable Kingwood Team is able to complete everything in August, they might be awarded the Bronze Certification at the upcoming conference.

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

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated two quotes were received for the Septic Pumping program. Mara Tippet felt the quote from Delaware Valley Septic lacked some information that is included in the Kingwood Township Fall Newsletter and asked the EC Secretary to contact them to clarify their quote regarding the missing information.

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

Sandra McNicol reported there was no update for the Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committees. Lois Voronin asked about the Tinsman property on Union Road and Sandra McNicol stated it is in the process of being preserved.

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

Mara Tippet noted Kingwood Township Community Day will be held on September 24, 2022. Mara Tippet reported that David Hewitt, Parks and Recreation Committee Chair, will be looking into having the boulders moved in front of the Kugler Woods Trail entrance to prevent people from parking there. Mara Tippet reported there was a recommendation from the Environmental Commission for mowing to begin at the Dog Park after July 15. Sandra McNicol explained several threatened bird species such as Bobolink, Grasshopper Sparrow and Meadowlark use the Dog Park area as a breeding ground, and it shouldn't be mowed until after July 15<sup>th</sup>. Sandra McNicol explained there was a Green Acres violation regarding the maintenance of the Dog Park, and she sent the mowing schedule recommendation in response to the tight timeline of the violation. The EC members would like to continue this discussion at the EC next meeting.

### **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**

Maureen Syrnick reported Michael Ewing, Clean Communities Coordinator, is having difficulty finding areas of Kingwood Township to hold clean-ups as Kingwood Township is very clean. Chair Debbie Kratzer suggested planning a clean-up after Community Day. Maureen Syrnick responded that a clean-up has already been scheduled.

### **New Business**

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported the new Kingwood Township website states 'Environmental Committee' not 'Environmental Commission' and would like that corrected. Chair Debbie Kratzer asked the EC members to look at the website and determine if any additional documents should be added.

### **Old Business**

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated there is a 180-car parking area planned by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the former Cooley property on Route 29 and recused herself from the discussion (she is an employee of NJDEP). Several EC members voiced their concerns regarding this project such as Kingwood Township zoning laws are not being adhered to, and that the property was originally preserved and now it will be used for a private, commercial operation. Maureen Syrnick indicated there was nothing Kingwood Township can do short of writing to elected officials voicing their concerns, as the land is owned by the State.

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported the EC voted to support the restoration of William Lindsay White House however, Kingwood Township has decided not to preserve it under the Historic designation.

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted there is a Final Report for the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River grant and provided several pictures from the tree planting event held at Bulls Island.

### **Adjournment**

Lois Voronin made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 pm, seconded by Timothy Cahalin, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debra Hutton, Secretary