

KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes

August 23, 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
Maureen Syrnick
Gail Ashley
Mara Tippet
Sandra McNicol

Absent

Betsy Combs
Cynthia Niciecki
Ralph Celebre
Timothy Cahalin
Lois Voronin

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

Priscilla Hayes, Kingwood Township resident, was present on the Zoom meeting. At the July EC meeting, Priscilla Hayes provided information she received from an ANJEC attorney regarding the Volunteer Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement form that Kingwood Township's insurance company requires for volunteer activities. Priscilla Hayes stated she spoke to her brother, an insurance specialist, and he explained that municipal insurance is difficult to procure, and unfortunately, municipalities must adhere to the rules that they impose.

Approval of Minutes

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

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Mara Tippet and carried to approve the July 26, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission.

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

Correspondence

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported an application for a General Permit #24 (septic system alteration for an existing dwelling) located at 796 Route 519 (Block 23, Lot 11) was received. Chair Debbie Kratzer provided a map she prepared of the property which delineated the wetland areas. Sandra McNicol noted this is a preserved property.

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported a Letter of Interpretation and map for Block 15, Lot 8 (Kingwood Township) and Block 48, Lot 8 (Franklin Township) was received. Sandra McNicol noted this is the Eastern Gateway property, a 65-acre parcel which is not preserved.

Reports

N/A

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 and Mara Tippettt worked on the rain garden on August 10th. The next Stewardship Day is scheduled for September 14th.

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted she spoke to a Luxfer employee regarding participating in a volunteer activity with the EC and they would possibly be interested in planting trees.

Rockfall Mitigation

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported the City of Lambertville passed a resolution similar to Kingwood Township's resolution. Chair Debbie Kratzer noted Steve Freeman (The Devil's Tea Table Alliance), would like to have all the area towns on both sides of the Delaware River pass resolutions and prepare a petition as a next step to opposing this project.

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 was not present at the EC meeting however, Chair Debbie Kratzer did not think there was an update.

Sustainable Kingwood

Mara Tippettt reported the next round of revisions on the recertification application is due on August 28 and there is more time to provide additional information by November. Mara Tippettt stated she received the conservation easement inventory from Michele Tipton-Walters, Kingwood Township Deputy Clerk, which she will submit as part of the recertification application. There are 56 parcels on the inventory and Mara Tippettt is working towards mailing the Conservation Easement brochure to landowners.

Well Water Testing and Septic System Pumping

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated that the EC Secretary contacted Delaware Valley Septic and received additional details of their quote. Mara Tippettt explained the differences in the two quotes from Delaware Valley and Castle Septic, pointing out the Delaware Valley quote had the better price which is \$350.00 for a 1,000-gallon tank. Gail Ashley asked if the price was truly a discounted group price or the same price if an individual called for a septic pumping. Chair Debbie Kratzer thought this was a good question to ask for next year as the EC needs to decide at this meeting to get the information in the Fall newsletter.

Motion to Accept Delaware Valley Septic as the Company for the 2022 Discount Septic Pumping Program

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Mara Tippettt and carried to approve Delaware Valley Septic as the septic pumping company for the 2022 discount septic pumping program

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

Mara Tippettt stated the dates for residents to pick up well water testing kits in the parking lot of the Kingwood Township Municipal Building which will be Saturday, October 8, 2022 from 9 am to noon and Tuesday, October 11, 2022 from 5-7 pm. Residents can return their kits to the same location on Wednesday, October 12, 2022 from 7-9:30 am.

Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committees Meeting News

Sandra McNicol reported there was no update for the Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committees, as they did not meet in August.

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting News

Mara Tippettt reported she brought up the topic of Environmental Commission review of new trails at the last Parks and Recreation Committee meeting and was told that it may require clarification of EC responsibilities. Maureen Syrnick noted the Environmental Commission Charter states the EC shall oversee open space and parkland however, the Parks and Recreation Committee had previously worked autonomously. Maureen Syrnick would like the two groups to be more cohesive and work together. She noted the existing park MOAs between the various entities had expired and Kingwood Township is working to get them back in place.

Mara Tippettt asked if anyone was interested in staffing an EC table at the Kingwood Township Community Day on September 24 from 4 – 8 pm. The Girl Scouts would like to join the EC at their table to distribute information about their Silver Award project on harmful algae blooms.

Sandra McNicol noted during the preservation process for the Maritan property, a map was submitted with trails delineated. Sandra McNicol asked Jackie Middleton of the Hunterdon Land Trust if the trails had to be developed. She stated it was only a representation of how the property may be used and they aren't bound to follow the map.

Planning Board Site Plans, News

Sandra McNicol reported the Planning Board is reviewing the zoning in the commercial zones, specifically the Route 12 corridor, for a possible update.

Recycling and Clean Communities Updates

Maureen Syrnick reported Michael Ewing, Clean Communities Coordinator, was on vacation and she did not get an update from him. Maureen Syrnick stated she believed there was monies available for mini grants for picking up trash.

New Business

Gail Ashley reported she reached out to Gavin Edwards, Vice President of Luxfer, after not getting responses from various people regarding the status of the Remedial Action Report. She finally received an e-mail from William Kraft, Licensed Site Remediation Professional at Ramboll, which was vague and unclear. Chair Debbie Kratzer suggested staying in communication with Luxfer and Ramboll to try to get more information until this issue has been resolved.

Chair Debbie Kratzer shared a New Jersey Conservation Foundation article regarding neonicotinoid pesticides. Mara Tippettt asked if neonicotinoid pesticides were used in Kingwood Township and Maureen Syrnick responded that she did not believe so.

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted New Jersey is in drought watch and shared a few informational graphics with the EC members regarding water usage and conservation.

Old Business

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission held a meeting in which they approved the 180-car parking area planned by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the former Cooley property on Route 29. Chair Debbie Kratzer then recused herself from the discussion, as she is an employee of NJDEP. Mara Tippettt and several other members discussed the fact that there wasn't anything more that could be done to stop this project. Maureen Syrnick reached out to a person who gave a presentation at the meeting and asked several questions such as the use of a gate by the vendor, which would restrict access to the parking lot and if there would be fees to use the parking lot. Maureen Syrnick stated the person would get back to her with answers to her questions.

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted there is a webinar scheduled for the following day regarding the new Stormwater Tier A requirements. Maureen Syrnick stated Wayne Ingram, Township Engineer, would be participating in the webinar. Several EC members discussed the possibility of getting grant money for implementing the change in status to Tier A.

Adjournment

Sandra McNicol made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 pm, seconded by Gail Ashley, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Hutton, Secretary