

KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2022

7:30 pm

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Vice Chair Mara Tippet 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

Mara Tippet
Sandra McNicol
Ralph Celebre
Gail Ashley
Timothy Cahalin
Lois Voronin
Betsy Combs

Absent

Debbie Kratzer
Maureen Syrnick
Cynthia Niececki

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

Priscilla Hayes, Kingwood Township resident, stated she staffed a Historical Society table at the Kingwood Community Day with two non-Kingwood Township residents. These individuals attended events as children at the William Lindsay White House. They expressed concern regarding the monies designated for the future maintenance of the house. Priscilla Hayes read aloud an email that one of the individuals sent to Kingwood Township Mayor Maureen Syrnick and the Mayor's response explaining the next steps for maintaining the house.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve the August 23, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission

It was moved by Mara Tippet and seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to approve the August 23, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission with corrections.

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

Under Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting News, the August 23, 2022 minutes state:

Mara Tippet 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 an ordinance or review 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 wanted to work autonomously.

Revision:

Mara Tippet 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.

Correspondence

Vice Chair Mara Tippet explained the content of the Notice of Open Public Comment Period Clean Water State Revolving Fund Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plans which was received. The open public comment period closes on October 3, 2022 if any EC members wanted to submit comments.

Vice Chair Mara Tippet noted a Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification (NJDEP Case Number 22-08-31-1215-17) was received regarding a heating oil leak at a residence located at 258 Route 519.

Reports

N/A

Notice of Upcoming Meetings/Workshops: Reminder of Dates

N/A

Stewardship

Vice Chair Mara Tippet reported that she did not attend the Stewardship Day scheduled for September 14th. She noted Chair Debbie Kratzer may have attended but no other EC members attended therefore, no update was available. Vice Chair Mara Tippet noted the next one is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12th and she thought they could do work along the Lockatong Creek at Kingwood Township Park on Union Road.

Rockfall Mitigation

No update was provided as Chair Debbie Kratzer was absent from the EC meeting.

Environmental Resource Inventory

No update was provided as Chair Debbie Kratzer was absent from the EC meeting.

Revised Well Ordinance

Lois Voronin reported there is no update as there has not been a meeting yet.

Sustainable Kingwood

Vice Chair Mara Tippet reported they are awaiting comments from Sustainable Jersey as to whether they need to make any revisions or provide additional documentation for the bronze recertification. Priscilla Hayes asked the status of the conservation easement brochure and Vice Chair Mara Tippet responded that she is working on matching block and lot information with actual mailing addresses to mail the brochure to landowners.

Well Water Testing and Septic System Pumping

Vice Chair Mara Tippet stated the well water testing and septic pumping information was included in the Fall newsletter and flyers were disseminated at Kingwood Township Community Day. Both programs are scheduled in October.

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 have a quorum for the September meeting therefore, they did not meet.

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting News

Vice Chair Mara Tippettt stated that Kingwood Township Community Day was held on September 24, 2022. She reported that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection notified Kingwood Township that their hunting program as it is currently organized as a lottery system, does not comply with State regulations. Sandra McNicol noted that the State regulations applies to Horseshoe Bend Park, as well as other areas that used funds from the Green Acres Program. Vice Chair Mara Tippettt will try to get further clarification about the rules at the next Parks and Recreation Committee meeting.

Planning Board Site Plans, News

Sandra McNicol reported the Planning Board is continuing to discuss zoning. Sandra McNicol noted the West Hunterdon Lanes, a bowling alley located on Route 12, was torn down.

Recycling and Clean Communities Updates

No update was provided as Maureen Syrnick was absent from the EC meeting.

New Business

N/A

Old Business

Vice Chair Mara Tippettt pointed out that New Jersey is still in a moderate drought as indicated by the New Jersey Regional Drinking Water Supply Indicators and Declared Water Supply Status chart.

Vice Chair Mara Tippettt reviewed the Stormwater Tier B: MS4 Tier B Reassignment Outreach Session presentation with the EC members. She noted this is a large project and with much work to be done. Gail Ashley asked her if funds were available to implement the change in status to Tier A, and she responded that grants should be made available.

At the last EC meeting, Maureen Syrnick suggested the EC members review Chapter 15 (Environmental Commission) and Chapter 34 (Parks and Recreation) regarding the roles and responsibilities of trail management of Kingwood Township's open space and parks. Chapter 15 was last amended in 1972 and the EC members felt it should be updated to reflect current situations (drought) and the responsibilities clarified as some of the language is vague. The EC members decided to provide comments and suggestions at the next EC meeting.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Mara Tippettt made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm, seconded by Ralph Celebre, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Hutton, Secretary