

**KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**October 25, 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  
Sandra McNicol  
Ralph Celebre  
Gail Ashley  
Lois Voronin  
Betsy Combs  
Maureen Syrnick

**Absent**

Mara Tippet (joined the meeting at 7:40 pm)  
Timothy Cahalin  
Cynthia Niciecki

**Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor**

Priscilla Hayes, Kingwood Township resident, stated she and Mara Tippet worked on the conservation easement property spreadsheet for possible mailing of the conservation easement brochure to landowners.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion to Approve the September 27, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission**

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to approve the September 27, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission.

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

### **Correspondence**

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted correspondence from EcolSciences, Inc. regarding a Letter of Interpretation: Line and Flood Hazard Area Verification for 1076 Route 12 (Block 12, Lot 11) was received. She stated a letter from Voigt Law was also received, explaining their client for 1076 Route 12 is seeking approval for a Class B Recycling Facility and plans to apply to the Kingwood Township Board of Adjustment to have a tree recycling facility on this property. Gail Ashley emailed Voigt Law asking if the application would only be for tree recycling and they replied that the recycling would be restricted to the use of materials for which they were applying (trees). Several EC members were concerned that if they are approved, once operational, they might add other materials such as asphalt millings and tires as a Class B Recycling Facility allows multiple materials to be recycled. Other concerns expressed were noise levels for this type of business and the location is in the scenic corridor overlay.

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted an email and map regarding hunting at Horseshoe Bend Park (HBP) and the Deer Bow Hunting Map of the Horseshoe Bend of D&R Canal State Park (Zone 11) was received from NJDEP. Maureen Syrnick explained that most of HBP is State-owned, and a small parcel is Green Acres/Kingwood Township parkland. Kingwood Township has held a hunting lottery for Horseshoe Bend Park however, NJDEP stated the hunting lottery can't be held on State-owned parkland. Kingwood Township canceled hunting this season and will develop a plan for next season.

### **Reports**

N/A

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

N/A

### **Stewardship**

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported that Betsy Combs worked by herself on October 12, 2022 at the last Stewardship Day. She noted the sun will set at 5 pm on the next Stewardship Day scheduled for November 9, 2022 and felt it would be too dark to continue doing these. The EC members decided there will be no more Stewardship Days scheduled for 2022 and anyone could work on their own if they desired.

### **Rockfall Mitigation**

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported an online petition opposing the Rockfall Mitigation Project is being developed. New Hope, PA is currently the only Delaware River town in this area that hasn't adopted a resolution yet opposing this project. Gail Ashley relayed her concerns on the possible rerouting of traffic through Kingwood Township if this project moves forward.

### **Environmental Resource Inventory**

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported she hasn't worked on the Environmental Resource Inventory recently.

### **Revised Well Ordinance**

Lois Voronin stated she still needs to follow up with Richard Philips of the Kingwood Township Board of Health. Sandy McNicol stated the Environmental Commission for Nockamixon Township, PA (a town with similar geology to Kingwood Township) is updating their groundwater preservation ordinance and will share a copy of the ordinance once approved.

### **Sustainable Kingwood**

Mara Tippet reported she received comments from Sustainable Jersey on the application that was submitted for bronze recertification. The deadline to submit the remaining documentation and revisions is November 20<sup>th</sup>.

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

Mara Tippettt stated it was not as busy as last year, she believed there were 27 residents as compared to about 50 residents that participated in the well water testing program. She indicated the results are not back yet from the lab and will provide that information when it has been received. She noted the septic system pumping program administered by Delaware Valley Septic will conclude at the end of October.

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

Sandra McNicol reported there hasn't been any new preservation. Mara Tippettt stated the North Jersey Resource Conservation and Development is holding its Regenerative Farm Network kickoff meeting on December 1, 2022 if Open Space/Agricultural Advisory Committees and Environmental Commission members are interested in attending.

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

Mara Tippettt reported there isn't an update for the Parks and Recreation Committee as they did not have a quorum for the September meeting therefore, they did not meet.

### **Planning Board Site Plans, News**

Lois Voronin reported that the Planning Board would like to have David Banisch, Kingwood Township Planner, attend a future meeting to clarify the regulations concerning zoning, the scenic corridor overlay and mini warehouses.

### **Recycling and Clean Communities Updates**

Maureen Syrnick requested the Environmental Commission Secretary contact Michael Ewing, Clean Communities Coordinator, and Michele Tipton-Walters, Recycling Coordinator, for a monthly update for future EC meetings.

### **Old Business**

Chair Debbie Kratzer explained there has been an ongoing discussion regarding the Environmental Commission (EC) ordinance (Chapter 15) and EC responsibilities. Maureen Syrnick had suggested the EC, Parks and Recreation Committee and the Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committees work together when there is a common interest such as trail building in a park. Gail Ashley reviewed Chapter 15 and suggested changes to expand the coverage of what the EC can do. She noted the effects of climate change and the importance of aquifers and groundwater are not included in the current ordinance. Maureen Syrnick suggested that ANJEC might be a resource for guidance and could possibly have model ordinances for Environmental Commissions.

### **New Business**

Chair Debbie Kratzer explained there is a Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Mini-Grant opportunity and the deadline is December 16. Past mini-grant projects include the pollinator meadow at Horseshoe Bend Park and the planting of trees and herbaceous plants at Bulls Island. The EC members discussed possible projects at the Melnyk Pond area such as planting herbaceous plants in the swales and maintenance of the trail along the Lockatong Creek. The EC members decided to meet at Melnyk Pond and walk this area for a possible project idea.

Sandra McNicol commented there are now rocks in front of the Kugler Woods trailhead which had been a topic at an earlier Environmental Commission meeting. Mara Tippettt stated that Dave Hewitt, Parks and Recreation Committee, contacted the D&R Canal Commission who had the rocks moved to that location.

### **Adjournment**

Sandra McNicol made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm, seconded by Mara Tippettt, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debra Hutton, Secretary