

KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2022
7:30 pm

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chair Debbie Kratzer 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

Maureen Syrnick
Debbie Kratzer
Sandra McNicol
Lois Voronin
Mara Tippet
Ralph Celebre
Timothy Cahalin
Betsy Combs
Gail Ashley

Absent

Cynthia Niececki

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

Jack MacConnell, Kingwood Township Emergency Management Coordinator, and Priscilla Hayes were present on the Zoom meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve the January 25, 2022 Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Mara Tippet and carried to approve the January 25, 2022 Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission as corrected.

Under Correspondence, the January 25, 2022 minutes state:

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted a Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification (NJDEP Case No. 21-12-17-0823-36) was received regarding Luxfer Technologies (formerly **Luxfer/MEL**). Ralph Celebre reminded the members regarding the tour that was promised by **Luxfer** after Covid-19 lessons.

Correction:

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted a Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification (NJDEP Case No. 21-12-17-0823-36) was received regarding Luxfer Technologies (formerly Luxfer). Ralph Celebre reminded the members regarding the tour that was promised by Luxfer after Covid-19 lessens.

All present from the Environmental Commission voted Aye on the Roll Call Vote except for Tim Cahalin, Gail Ashley and Betsy Combs who were absent at last month's meeting and abstained.

Correspondence

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated a Downstream Notification and Public Notice from the Deiter Brothers Fuel Company. There were no comments regarding this notification.

Reports

Chair Debbie Kratzer asked the EC members if there were any comments on the Kingwood Township Environmental Commission Draft 2022 Objectives and there were only a few small changes. Chair Debbie Kratzer would like to finalize the document and send it to the Kingwood Township Committee and include it on the Kingwood Township website.

Motion to Approve the Environmental Commission Draft 2022 Objectives and Finalize the Document

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Ralph Celebre to finalize the Kingwood Township Environmental Commission Draft 2022 Objectives.

All present from the Environmental Commission voted Aye on the Motion.

Chair Debbie Kratzer reviewed the Draft Annual Report for 2021 and several members are going to update the sections that need revisions. Chair Debbie Kratzer would like to possibly complete this project by the next EC meeting.

Notice of Upcoming Meetings/Workshops: Reminder of Dates

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported the Hunterdon County Hazardous Waste Clean Up Day will be held on March 5, 2022.

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated she will be speaking about Environmental Resource Inventories (ERI) at the ANJEC Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions workshop which will be held from March 8 – 10, 2022.

Chair Debbie Kratzer reminded the EC members that the next Board of Health meeting will be held on March 16, 2022.

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported there will be a trail maintenance project at Horseshoe Bend Park on March 17, 2022.

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated the EC Webinar featuring Dr. David Robinson will be held on Monday, March 28, 2022.

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River grant was awarded and preparation for planting will be held on April 28, 2022. Planting sessions will take place on April 30, 2022 and May 1, 2022.

Stewardship

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported that the \$5000 Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River grant that Kingwood and Delaware Townships jointly applied for was awarded to them. They will be planting approximately 120 trees and 300 herbaceous plants. Since Delaware Township is the lead, they will be responsible for the financial information regarding the grant.

Chair Debbie Kratzer discussed scheduling Stewardship Days with the EC members. The members decided on the second Wednesday of the month, possibly beginning in April.

Chair Debbie Kratzer would like to refresh the educational information in the kiosks in the Kingwood Township parks. The EC members agreed to make this a Spring/Summer project.

Rockfall Mitigation

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated Delaware Township is the only surrounding town that has not passed a resolution regarding opposition to this project. Steve Freeman (The Devil's Tea Table Alliance) will be giving a presentation to Delaware Township to see if they would like to pass a resolution as well.

Environmental Resource Inventory

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported that she hasn't worked on this project recently however, she would like to resume soon.

Revised Well Ordinance

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported that she attended the February 16, 2022 Board of Health meeting however, no Board of Health members attended except Tom Ciacciarelli, Township Committee member. The revised well ordinance will not need to be reintroduced but will need to be readvertised for the next Board of Health meeting on March 16, 2022.

Sustainable Kingwood

Mara Tippet reported that the members met to discuss the status of the recertification cycle as the deadline for the first round of certification is May 22, 2022. Ralph Celebre contacted Cynthia Keller, Kingwood Township Clerk, for information on new actions such as identifying vulnerable populations in case of emergencies and diversity on boards and commissions. Mara Tippet welcomed Priscilla Hayes as a new member of the Green Team, Sustainable Kingwood.

Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committees Meeting News

Sandra McNicol stated the Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committees are working with David Banisch, Kingwood Township Planner, on the Farmland Preservation Element of the Master Plan. Sandra McNicol updated the preserved farmland spreadsheet and sent it to David Banish and she began working on one for preserved open space.

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting News

Mara Tippet stated the Parks and Recreation Committee scheduled several events at their last meeting such as the Working German Shephard Dog Promotion Association Dog Show from May 19 – 22, 2022 at Kingwood Park. Other events scheduled are the Senior Picnic, Egg Hunt, Fishing Derby and the Tree Lighting.

Planning Board Site Plans, News

Maureen Syrnick announced that attorney David Pierce, who guided the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment, recently passed away. Sandra McNicol noted the resolution was adopted for the Ziegler boundary line adjustment. Lois Voronin reminded the EC members that the Climate Change element needs to be included in the Master Plan. It was requested that Secretary Debbi Hutton email the Planning Board Secretary to remind David Banish to prepare a cost estimate for the Climate Change element and provide it at the next Planning Board meeting on March 10th.

Recycling and Clean Communities Updates

Maureen Syrnick announced that Michele Tipton-Walters, Kingwood Township Deputy Clerk, is the new Recycling Coordinator and Michael Ewing, Kingwood Township Department of Public Works, is the new Clean Communities Coordinator. Maureen Syrnick will provide their updates at the next EC meeting.

New Business

Gail Ashley provided Chair Debbie Kratzer with her precipitation update and Debbie will email it to the EC members.

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted that ANJEC prepared a Model Resolution on Stormwater Regulations.

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported there was a Township Committee Special Meeting in which a representative from a cannabis company presented a proposal for a business in Kingwood Township. Several EC members attended the meeting and felt there wasn't public support for this type of business in Kingwood Township.

Gail Ashley would like to request a copy of the Luxfer Final Report which still hasn't been received by the EC. Sandra McNicol suggested contacting Gavin Edwards, Vice President of Luxfer US Operations, for the final report and if he doesn't provide it, the members discussed filing an NJDEP OPRA request for the report.

Chair Debbie Kratzer reviewed an email from the Invasive Species Strike Team alerting people to lesser-known invasive species in this area. She researched the species and will provide the EC members with photos so they are aware.

Old Business

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted the deadline is March 2, 2022 for the Spring mailer and it will include the Stormwater brochure as well as an announcement for the March 28, 2022 EC webinar featuring Dr. David Robinson.

Maureen Syrnick explained about the proposed phased renovation of the historic William Lindsay White House as well as the funding sources for the project. The EC members have a great deal of questions regarding the restoration project and are seeking additional information. Jack MacConnell suggested inviting Richard Dodds (who worked with Dennis Bertland on the historic preservation grant for the house) to speak at an EC meeting to provide more information about the project. Chair Debbie Kratzer agreed to invite both Richard Dodds and Dennis Bertland to the April EC meeting.

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported she sent out the Thank You letters to the various politicians who helped in stopping the PennEast pipeline project and she received a confirmation thank you note back from Assemblyman John DiMaio.

Gail Ashley thanked Sandra McNicol for her hard work and many years of service as both the Recycling and Clean Communities Coordinator. The EC members expressed their appreciation and thanked her as well.

Gail Ashley requested the advertisement for the EC webinar featuring Dr. David Robinson be more prominent on the Kingwood Township website and Maureen Syrnick assured her it would be after this EC meeting. Mara Tippet suggested including the announcement of the webinar in the Spring mailer. Ralph Celebre reported he included it in Basil Bandwagon's newsletter and on their social media web site. Chair Debbie Kratzer sent it to the Environmental Commissions in the surrounding towns and posted it on the Kingwood Township Facebook webpage.

Adjournment

Gail Ashley made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 pm, seconded Sandra McNicol, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Hutton, Secretary