

KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2023
7:30 pm

Call to Order

The Reorganization and Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Secretary Debra Hutton at 8:05 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 on January 12, 2023. A copy of this Meeting notice was posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on January 17, 2023.

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

Lance Riggio (new member)
Timothy Cahalin
Debbie Kratzer
Sandra McNicol
Lois Voronin
Mara Tippet
Betsy Combs
Priscilla Hayes (new member)

Absent

Ralph Celebre
Gail Ashley

Reorganize

Secretary Debbi Hutton welcomed Lance Riggio as the new Governing Body Member and Priscilla Hayes as the new alternate (taking the place of Cynthia Niececki). She announced Lois Voronin was reappointed for another term.

Nomination for Chairperson for Environmental Commission

It was moved by Lois Voronin and seconded by Mara Tippet and carried to nominate Debbie Kratzer as Chairperson for the Environmental Commission for 2023.

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

Chair Debbie Kratzer took over the meeting at this time.

Nomination for Vice Chairperson for Environmental Commission

It was moved by Lois Voronin and seconded by Timothy Cahalin and carried to nominate Mara Tippet as Vice Chairperson for the Environmental Commission for 2023.

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

Motion and Approval of Local Newspapers (Hunterdon County Democrat, Courier News and Trenton Times) for Advertisements for 2023

It was moved by Mara Tippet and seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to approve the local newspapers (Hunterdon County Democrat, Courier News and Trenton Times) for advertisements for 2023.

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

Motion and Approval of Scheduled Meeting Dates for 2023 - Fourth Tuesday of the Month - Meeting Time to be at 7:30 pm

It was moved by Mara Tippet and seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to approve the annual meeting dates and times for the monthly meetings for the Environmental Commission for 2022 as noted below.

January 24, 2023	July 25, 2023
February 28, 2023	August 22, 2023
March 28, 2023	September 26, 2023
April 25, 2023	October 24, 2023
May 23, 2023	November 28, 2023
June 27, 2023	December 19, 2023 (Third Tuesday)

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

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted Heather Wolven, a member of the public, was present on the Zoom call. Heather stated she was attending the meeting to become a more informed Kingwood Township resident.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve the December 20, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to approve the December 20, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission.

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

Correspondence

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated a letter from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection regarding the FY 2023 Annual Fee Report and Assessment of Fees for the New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJDPES) Permit Program was received. The members noted they had not seen this type of letter before and discussed whether this was related to the change from Tier B to Tier A Stormwater status. Discussion included whether it applied to any Kingwood Township businesses, developments or the Kingwood Township School.

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted an email from Verdantas was received regarding a groundwater remedial action protectiveness certification for Chris Citgo Service Station located on Route 12. Sandra McNicol noted this topic was discussed at a recent Kingwood Township Planning Board meeting as Verdantas was inquiring as to any planned use changes in this area. Sandra McNicol explained there were pollution issues at this site a long time ago and every few years there is a required follow-up by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported the ANJEC Annual Membership Renewal notice was received. She explained ANJEC provides many resources and support for Environmental Commissions. The EC members discussed the benefits of renewing the membership.

Motion to Request Funding for the 2023 ANJEC Annual Membership, Expending \$400 from the EC Budget

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Priscilla Hayes to renew the annual ANJEC membership, expending \$400 from the EC budget for this membership.

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

Reports

N/A

Notice of Upcoming Meetings/Workshops: Reminder of Dates

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported the annual Kingwood Township Tree Giveaway will be held on April 15, 2023.

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted the Hunterdon Land Trust Stewardship has planned several Stewardship Days in Kingwood. The first one was held on January 21, 2023 at the Muddy Run Preserve (178 Kingwood Locktown Road) where they worked on blazing a new trail in honor of Kingwood resident and preservation advocate Todd Kratzer.

Other dates are:

- February 18, 2023: Idell Preserve (50 Barbertown Idell Road)
- May 20, 2023: Muddy Run Preserve (178 Kingwood Locktown Road)
- August 19, 2023: Idell Preserve (50 Barbertown Idell Road)

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported interested EC members may want to listen to these webinars:

- ANJEC: <https://www.youtube.com/@anjecviews5871>
- Watershed Institute: <https://www.youtube.com/@TheWatershedInstitute>
- Raritan Headwaters: <https://www.youtube.com/@raritanheadwaters>

Rockfall Mitigation

Chair Debbie Kratzer explained there were three Kingwood Township Resolutions regarding the Rockfall Mitigation project (2015 – 99, 2021 – 56 and 2021-94). The first was done in 2015 supporting the design phase of the project. Once the project was understood, the other resolutions oppose the project and rescinds the 2015 resolution. Lance Riggio reported there was a meeting with Kingwood Township officials, Hunterdon County

officials, Tribal Nations, NJDEP and the NJDOT to discuss this project. At the next meeting Lance Riggio would like a member of the Kingwood Township Environmental Commission to attend.

Environmental Resource Inventory

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported she hasn't worked on the Environmental Resource Inventory due to school obligations but will work on it soon.

Groundwater and Well Ordinance

Chair Debbie Kratzer explained the history of the well ordinance and the Environmental Commission's ground water protection presentation that was created for the Board of Health meeting. Maureen Syrnick had reviewed the presentation and thought two slides should be updated to reflect that the well ordinance has been revised since that Board of Health meeting. The EC members are still reviewing the presentation for possible revisions.

Sustainable Kingwood

Mara Tippettt stated that she and Priscilla Hayes attended the Sustainable Hunterdon Hub kick off meeting where they did a presentation on electric vehicles. Several EC members discussed conservation easements and Mara Tippettt stated they should work on this project with the Open Space Committee.

Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committees Meeting News and Update

Sandra McNicol reported these farmland preservations are close to being completed: the Tinsman property located on Union Road should close at the end of the month, the Barnes property located on Route 12 will be closing soon and the Ely property on Barbertown-Point Breeze is in the process of preserving two parcels.

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting News and Update

Mara Tippettt reported the Parks and Recreation Committee has some new members for 2023. Several discussions by EC members included the status of the William Lindsay White House, the Green Acres violations at Horseshoe Bend Park and the need to post Kingwood Township owned open space and park properties.

Planning Board Site Plans, News and Update

Sandra McNicol reported the Township Committed created an ordinance (2-2023) "Amending the Township Code of Ordinances of The Township of Kingwood to Repeal Chapter 132-37 Entitled "Floodplain District" And to Create a New Chapter, Chapter 79, Entitled "Floodplain Management and Regulations;" To Adopt Flood Hazard Maps; To Designate a Floodplain Administrator; And Providing for Severability and An Effective Date". She believes this is a recommendation from the new stormwater management rules required by the State.

Recycling and Clean Communities Updates

Secretary Debbi Hutton stated that Michele Tipton-Walters, Recycling Coordinator, reported she's working on the tonnage report which is submitted in April. Michael Ewing, Clean Communities Coordinator, noted he has been in contact with several groups interested in doing clean-ups.

New Business

Chair Debbie Kratzer would like to plan the 2023 Stewardship Days and the EC members decided on the second Tuesday of the month from March through October.

Chair Debbie Kratzer recused herself from the Cooley property discussion, as she is an employee of NJDEP. Mara Tippettt reported the Parks and Recreation Committee is drafting a letter stating their objections of the preserved Cooley property being paved for a parking lot and being used by a private concession and the safety concerns of this parking lot on Route 29. The EC would like to do their own letter or incorporate their comments and concerns in the Parks and Recreation Committee's letter.

Chair Debbie Kratzer is working on drafts of the 2023 EC Objectives and the 2022 EC Annual Report and will share these documents for review at next month's EC meeting.

Chair Debbie Kratzer explained the Volunteer Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement needs to be signed annually by EC members before they can participate in volunteer activities such as the Stewardship Days. Lois Voronin asked Lance Riggio to review the form and possibly having the wording changed as several EC members are not in agreement with how it is written.

Chair Debbie Kratzer shared the New Jersey Service Nursery Bareroot and Tube Seedling Order Form with the EC members in case anyone was interested in purchasing for themselves.

Old Business

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated the Environmental Commission 2022 budget was \$1200 and approximately \$700 was spent.

Motion to Request \$1200 for the 2023 Environmental Commission Budget

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Priscilla Hayes to request \$1200 for the 2023 Environmental Commission budget.

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

Chair Debbie Kratzer asked the EC members whether they want to meet via Zoom or in-person for 2023 and several EC members stated they preferred meeting via Zoom so they will continue meeting via Zoom.

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted there has been discussion to change the wording of the Environmental Commission ordinance (Chapter 15). Gail Ashley proposed changes and the EC members would like to discuss it at the next meeting.

Sandra McNicol explained she was following up with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) on a Notice of Violation for 56 Old State Route 12 (Block 9, Lot 21). The initial notice was sent on May 20, 2022 regarding the disposition of fill material located along the bank of the Lockatong Creek within the flood hazard area. Another notice was sent on November 2, 2022 and although the matter hasn't been rectified, the property owner's son indicated he would like to correct the situation.

Sandra McNicol reported there is a campaign spearheaded by several New Jersey organizations, Fixourparksnj.org, to hold the State accountable for protecting New Jersey public lands.

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted the Watershed Ambassador for the D&R Canal at Bulls Canal is planning to remove an invasive plant, bamboo, in the Spring. She will share details when she gets more information.

Adjournment

Mara Tippet made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 pm, seconded by Sandra McNicol, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Hutton, Secretary