

KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2023
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 on February 9, 2023. A copy of this Meeting notice was posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on February 1, 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
Timothy Cahalin
Gail Ashley
Debbie Kratzer
Sandra McNicol
Priscilla Hayes
Ralph Celebre

Absent

Lois Voronin
Mara Tippet
Betsy Combs

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

N/A

Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve the January 24, 2023 Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to approve the January 24, 2023 Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission.

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

Correspondence

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted a Downstream Notification and Public Notice was received regarding Deiter Brothers Fuel Company of Bethlehem, PA. She explained this is an annual notice required by Pennsylvania law which is sent to entities and municipalities that are located 20 miles downstream of their facility.

Reports

N/A

Notice of Upcoming Meetings/Workshops: Reminder of Dates

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated there are several events the EC members might be interested in attending:

- ANJEC 2023 Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions presentation on March 21-23 (virtual) and April 1 (in person). Debbie Kratzer will be speaking about ERIs at the presentation.
- March 30: 5 pm – 7 pm, Sustainable Hunterdon Hub at Riegel Ridge Community Center
- April 15: 10 am – 11:30 am, How to Choose a Tree at Echo Hill Park
- April 15: 1 pm, Tree Seedling Giveaway at Horseshoe Bend Park
- May 20: 10 am – 1 pm, HLT Stewardship Day at Muddy Run Preserve (178 Kingwood Locktown Rd)
- August 19: 9 am – 12 pm, HLT Stewardship Day at Idell Preserve (50 Barbertown Idell Rd)

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted the EC will have its first 2023 Stewardship Day on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 5 pm. She reminded the EC members that they need to fill out the Volunteer Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement before they can participate in Stewardship Days.

Rockfall Mitigation

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated Kingwood Township Mayor Andrew Russano sent a letter to Congressman Kean objecting to the proposed NJDOT Route 29 Rockfall Mitigation Project. Lance Riggio explained the NJDOT gave a presentation on January 24, 2023 to Kingwood Township and Hunterdon County officials and members of tribal nations regarding the project. NJDOT will be scheduling another meeting and Kingwood Township officials would like members of the Environmental Commission to attend.

Groundwater and Well Ordinance

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated that Lois Voronin has been working on updates to the Environmental Commission's Ground Water Protection presentation (created for the September 2021 Board of Health meeting) so that it can be posted to the Kingwood Township website. Lois was not in attendance so it will be discussed next month.

Sustainable Kingwood

Ralph Celebre stated there was no new update except a letter was received from Sustainable Jersey stating there was still time to receive certification however, Kingwood Township already earned its recertification.

Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committees Meeting News and Update

Sandra McNicol stated there is one property that should close shortly and be preserved. She reported there are several items in the works such as updating the Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan (CFPP) and the need to update the Recreational and Open Space Inventory (ROSI) and Green Acres funding determination.

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting News and Update

Mara Tippet was not in attendance at this meeting therefore, there wasn't an update.

Planning Board Site Plans, News and Update

Sandra McNicol reported the Planning Board is working on a proposed ordinance (Number 5-2023) which would amend Chapter 132 (Zoning) regarding warehouses. Chair Debbie Kratzer noted there was an ordinance introduced by the Kingwood Township Committee (Number 2-2023) regarding Floodplains.

Recycling and Clean Communities Updates

Sandra McNicol asked Chair Debbie Kratzer to share an article about recycling plastic. Priscilla Hayes noted that clothing fibers generated from washing machines and dryers causes microplastics in the environment.

New Business

Chair Debbie Kratzer would like a bullet added to the “Opportunities for Volunteers” page of the Spring Mailer regarding removing invasive plants. Secretary Debbi Hutton will contact Michele Tipton-Walters to have it added.

Chair Debbie Kratzer updated the Environmental Commission Objectives for 2023 and shared it with the EC members. There were no comments therefore, she would like to finalize the document and have it placed on the Kingwood Township website.

Motion to Approve the Environmental Commission Draft 2023 Objectives and Finalize the Document

It was moved by Priscilla Hayes and seconded by Ralph Celebre to finalize the Kingwood Township Environmental Commission Draft 2023 Objectives.

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

Chair Debbie Kratzer reviewed the Draft Annual Report for 2022 and several members agreed to revise the sections that need updating. Chair Debbie Kratzer would like to have draft articles by the next EC meeting and complete this project by mid-year.

Old Business

Priscilla Hayes stated conservation easements should be marked on the Kingwood Township tax map but has found this is not the case. Sandra McNicol noted conservation easements are shown on deeds and it would be necessary to research all Kingwood Township deeds to compile a complete list which would be a large undertaking. Priscilla Hayes stated there is possibly an ANJEC grant available, but the deadline is April 17, 2023.

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted there has been discussion to change the wording of the Environmental Commission ordinance (Chapter 15). Gail Ashley proposed changes and Priscilla Hayes made revisions as well. The EC members would like to review these changes and discuss it at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Timothy Cahalin made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 pm, seconded by Gail Ashley, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Hutton, Secretary