

KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2023

7:30 pm

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chair Debbie Kratzer at 7:33 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
Lois Voronin
Debbie Kratzer
Mara Tippet
Priscilla Hayes
Betsy Combs
Ralph Celebre

Absent

Gail Ashley
Sandra McNicol
Timothy Cahalin

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

N/A

Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve the February 28, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission

It was moved by Ralph Celebre and seconded by Priscilla Hayes and carried to approve the February 28, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- Kratzer, Hayes, Celebre
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- Voronin, Tippet
	Absent	- McNicol, Cahalin, Ashley, Combs (joined the meeting at 7:36 pm)

Correspondence

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted a Clean Fleet Electric Vehicle Incentive Program email was received regarding available grants. The EC discussed applying for a grant to install an electric vehicle charging station, the costs involved as well as where one could be located. Lance Riggio requested Chair Debbie Kratzer send a recommendation to the Township Committee to discuss this grant opportunity at the next Township Committee meeting.

Reports

N/A

Notice of Upcoming Meetings/Workshops: Reminder of Dates

Mara Tippet reported the final New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Natural and Working Lands Strategy Stakeholder Sessions was held on March 28, 2023 regarding Forested Lands.

Mara Tippet and Priscilla Hayes noted they are planning on attending the March 30th Sustainable Hunterdon Hub at the Riegel Ridge Community Center.

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated there are several events on April 15th. One is the Tree Giveaway at Horseshoe Bend Park in which 220 tree seedlings will be distributed. Also, she will be volunteering at Bulls Island on April 15th to remove invasive bamboo and noted this is only a start as there is an abundance of it to be removed.

Chair Debbie Kratzer detailed other events the EC members might be interested in attending:

- April 1: ANJEC 2023 Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions
- April 15: How to Choose a Tree sponsored by Hunterdon County Shade Tree Commission
- April 15: Raritan Headwaters 33rd Annual Stream Cleanup
- May 20: Free Electronic Waste Recycling at Hunterdon County Route 12 Complex
- May 20: Hunterdon Land Trust Stewardship Day at Muddy Run Preserve (178 Kingwood Locktown Rd)
- August 19: Hunterdon Land Trust Stewardship Day at Idell Preserve (50 Barbertown Idell Rd)

Stewardship

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted the first 2023 Stewardship Day on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 was cancelled due to inclement weather. She stated the next Stewardship Day will be held at Kingwood Park at 5 pm on Tuesday, April 11, 2023. Mara Tippet suggested removing invasive species at Horseshoe Bend Park at a few Stewardship Days.

Rockfall Mitigation

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated Kingwood Township is forming a work group in which she was invited to participate. Mara Tippet would like to attend as well. Lance Riggio noted the group will probably begin meeting in mid-April.

Groundwater and Well Ordinance

Chair Debbie Kratzer explained they would like to update the Environmental Commission's Ground Water Protection presentation (created for the September 2021 Board of Health meeting) to be an educational piece which will be posted on the Kingwood Township website. Lois Voronin will review the updates for discussion at the next EC meeting.

Sustainable Kingwood

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated a confirmation letter from Sustainable Jersey was received and congratulated the Green Team on receiving the Bronze recertification for Kingwood Township. A Bronze Certification plaque has been installed in the Township Municipal Building.

Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committees Meeting News and Update

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

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting News and Update

Mara Tippet reported the subscription for the Outerspatial application (used at Horseshoe Bend Park) will not be renewed but may revisited in the future. She noted several upcoming events: the Easter Egg Hunt on April 8th, the Fishing Derby on June 17th and Community Day on September 16th. Lance Riggio explained they are researching possible grants for the fireworks display at Community Day due to the high costs of the fireworks.

Planning Board/Board of Adjustment Site Plans, News and Update

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated the Board of Adjustment began sharing their monthly agenda documents with the Environmental Commission for review. Two documents regarding a garage being constructed in Hidden Orchard Estates were discussed: Stormwater Management Certification and Revised Site Plan for Block 22, Lot 16.10.

Lois Voronin reported the Planning Board has been working on updates to Zoning and the Scenic Corridor Overlay. Several EC members discussed the Class B recycling facility proposed at 1076 Route 12 and if it could be impacted due to the Zoning and Scenic Corridor updates.

Recycling and Clean Communities Updates

Secretary Debbi Hutton stated Michael Ewing, Clean Communities Coordinator, reported there was not a new update. She reported Michele Tipton-Walters, Recycling Coordinator, provided the following update: the cost of hazardous and electronic waste days has more than doubled since 2021 and that Kingwood Township will be sponsoring Clean Up Days on the second Saturday of April, May, June, September and October.

New Business

Mara Tippettt explained the Xerces Society is offering a Northeast Monarch and Pollinator Habitat Kit and applications are due by March 31, 2023. She would like to apply, and if accepted, would use it at the Pollinator Meadow at Horseshoe Bend Park.

Motion to Apply for the Xerces Society Northeast Monarch and Pollinator Habitat Kit for Use at the Pollinator Meadow at Horseshoe Bend Park

It was moved by Priscilla Hayes and seconded by Mara Tippettt to apply for the Xerces Society Northeast Monarch and Pollinator Habitat Kit for use at Horseshoe Bend Park’s Pollinator Meadow.

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

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported there is a Stormwater Assistance Grant available for municipalities such as Kingwood Township that were formally Tier B and were reassigned to Tier A. She asked Lance Riggio if the Township is applying for this grant, and he replied he will check the status and report back.

Old Business

Chair Debbie Kratzer explained Gail Ashley and Priscilla Hayes proposed changes to the wording of the Environmental Commission ordinance (Chapter 15). The EC members discussed the changes and provided additional suggestions which will be discussed and possibly finalized at the next EC meeting.

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted Gail Ashley followed up with an email on March 9, 2023 to the attorney representing the owner of the proposed recycling center at 1076 Route 12. The attorney replied that they were still doing engineering work and hoped to make application soon. Lois Voronin stated this has not been on Board of Adjustment’s agenda for several months.

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated she is still working on the 2022 Annual Report sections she is responsible for writing and that she hasn’t received revised sections from other EC members who are also working on updates. Chair Debbie Kratzer hoped to have the draft articles by the next EC meeting.

Priscilla Hayes is working on compiling a list of conservation easements and their locations in Kingwood Township. Lois Voronin reported she brought up the need to locate conservation easements when reviewing site plans at the Planning Board meeting and Maureen Syrnick, Kingwood Township Committee, stated she will look into it.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Hutton, Secretary