

KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 25, 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
Gail Ashley
Debbie Kratzer
Priscilla Hayes
Ralph Celebre

Absent

Mara Tippet
Sandra McNicol
Timothy Cahalin
Betsy Combs
Lois Voronin (joined the meeting at 7:40 pm)

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

N/A

Approval of Minutes

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

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- Kratzer, Haye, Celebre
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- Ashley
	Absent	- Tippet, McNicol, Cahalin, Combs, Voronin (joined the meeting at 7:40 pm)

Correspondence

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted a Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification (NJDEP Case Number 23-04-12-1433-49) was received. She stated it was for heating oil that was being pumped into a ditch which leads into a stream and was ongoing. Ralph Celebre offered to follow up to try to get additional information.

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:

- 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 reported they had a successful Stewardship Day on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 where she, Betsy, Ralph and Priscilla straightened tree tubes. At the next Stewardship Day, which is scheduled for May 9, she would like to remove invasive species at Horseshoe Bend Park as Mara Tippet had suggested at the last EC meeting.

Rockfall Mitigation

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted Kingwood Township had its first Rockfall Mitigation Project subcommittee meeting. Gail Ashley reported another meeting was held with the subcommittee, Congressman Tom Kean and Steve Freeman (Tea Table Alliance) who gave a presentation on the project. Lance Riggio stated the meeting with Congressman Kean was a positive one and would like to share a summary document from that meeting on the Kingwood Township website.

Groundwater and Well Ordinance

Lois Voronin stated she did not review the updates and would like to discuss it at the next EC meeting.

Sustainable Kingwood

Ralph Celebre reported he is working on a list of projects needed to maintain the bronze certification status. Projects could include Lead Education/Outreach and Vulnerable Populations Identification for Emergencies. Debbie Kratzer stated she will be able to finish updating the ERI soon which is worth Sustainable Jersey recertification points.

Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committees Meeting News and Update

Lance Riggio reported the Tinsman farm was preserved. The Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committee members discussed the new law, Chapter 9: Special Occasion Events on Preserved Farmland. Also discussed were regulations for operating a farmstand, what is the required percentage of grown products and the types of products that can be sold.

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting News and Update

Lance Riggio stated the Parks and Recreation Committee (P&R) changed the date of Community Day from September 16th to September 30th after being informed by Kingwood Township Fire Chief Frank Floyd that firefighters will be out of town that week for training. He reported the P&R Committee is working towards offering chainsaw training to volunteers who work on the park trails (this is the same training the Department of Public Works employees receive). He noted the P&R Committee requested repairs be done to the house at Kingwood Park and to have someone live there who would be a caretaker of the Park. Also, a request was received to host a soccer tournament (a first for Kingwood Township) over Memorial Day weekend at Kingwood Township Park.

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

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported the Planning Board is working on an Electric Vehicle charging station ordinance. Lance Riggio followed up after last month's EC discussion on this topic with Dr. Rick Falkenstein, Kingwood Township School Superintendent, and he stated he wouldn't want a public EV charging station located at a school for security reasons.

Recycling and Clean Communities Updates

Secretary Debbi Hutton noted there wasn't anything new to report from Michele Tipton-Walters, Recycling Coordinator, or Michael Ewing, Clean Communities Coordinator.

New Business

Chair Debbie Kratzer shared the New Jersey Regional Drinking Water Supply Indicators and Declared Water Supply Status chart as there was no measurable snow this past Winter and it has been a dry Spring. She wants to possibly do water conservation outreach to Kingwood Township residents if it continues to remain dry.

Old Business

Chair Debbie Kratzer explained Mara Tippett offered to apply to the Xerces Society's Northeast Monarch and Pollinator Habitat Kit at the last EC meeting. Mara Tippett was not in attendance at this meeting to update the EC members as to whether she was able to apply before the March 31, 2023 application deadline.

Chair Debbie Kratzer explained the EC has been working on updating the Environmental Commission ordinance (Chapter 15). The EC members decided to review the changes that Gail Ashley and Priscilla Hayes suggested and will vote on finalizing the document and making the recommendation to the Kingwood Township Committee to amend the ordinance at the next EC meeting.

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated Gail Ashley sent her the article she was working on for the 2022 Annual Report, but the other EC members still need to send her the sections they are responsible for writing. Chair Debbie Kratzer hoped to have the draft completed by the next EC meeting.

Other Business

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted Trout Scapes River Restoration will be doing a presentation at the next P&R Committee meeting and they will be undertaking a stream restoration project along the banks of the Copper Creek. She noted they recently completed a stream restoration project at Dvoor Farm in Flemington.

Chair Debbie Kratzer explained Maureen Syrnick forwarded an email that she received from someone who was requesting all Mayors sign their petition against wind power because it is killing the whales. Chair Debbie Kratzer read from an ANJEC article about whales and the things that can cause their deaths. She also noted the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection dedicated funds to study the cause of the whale deaths.

Motion to Reject the Request for the Kingwood Township Mayor to Sign a Petition Against Wind Power Because There Is Evidence Suggesting Other Reasons for Whale Deaths, and that the Conclusion is Premature as NJDEP is Studying the Issue

It was moved by Priscilla Hayes and seconded by Ralph Celebre to reject the request for the Kingwood Township Mayor to sign a petition against wind power as the petition states this is the cause of whale deaths.

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

Lois Voronin inquired about the status of the Green Acres violations that were received for Horseshoe Bend Park a few months ago. Lance Riggio responded that some issues were fixed and action plans were put in place.

Ralph Celebre stated he read an interesting article about microplastics: Our Way of Life is Poisoning Us. He will forward it to all the EC members for their information.

Gail Ashley asked if Kingwood Township has an ordinance about residents using pesticides on their property. Chair Debbie Kratzer didn't think so but suggested some informational material could be posted on the website.

Adjournment

Gail Ashley made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 pm, seconded by Lois Voronin, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Hutton, Secretary