

**KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**May 23, 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. Your cooperation is appreciated. The meeting was virtual and hosted on Zoom with the link posted on the Kingwood Township website.

**Roll Call**

**Present**

- Lance Riggio
- Ralph Celebre
- Debbie Kratzer
- Sandra McNicol
- Lois Voronin
- Betsy Combs
- Mara Tippet (joined the meeting at 7:53 pm)

**Absent**

- Priscilla Hayes
- Timothy Cahalin
- Gail Ashley

**Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor**

N/A

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion to Approve the April 25, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission**

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Ralph Celebre and carried to approve the April 25, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission.

|                 |         |  |
|-----------------|---------|--|
| Roll Call Vote: | Aye     | - Kratzer, Celebre, Voronin                                      |
|                 | Nay     | - None   |
|                 | Abstain | - Combs, McNicol   |
|                 | Absent  | - Hayes, Ashley, Cahalin, Tippet (joined the meeting at 7:53 pm) |

**Correspondence**

Chair Debbie Kratzer shared the memo she wrote from the Kingwood Township Environmental Commission to the Township Committee opposing the petition for a moratorium on wind energy. The Kingwood Township Mayor received a request to sign a petition against wind power as it stated this is the cause of whale deaths. Chair Debbie Kratzer also attached an ANJEC article about whales and the various reasons that can cause their deaths.

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated a letter from Kingwood Township Mayor Russano thanking the volunteers who helped at the tree giveaway. All the trees were given away by noon on April 15, 2023.

Betsy Combs inquired about the success of the bamboo removal at Bulls Island on April 15<sup>th</sup> and Debbie Kratzer reported some progress was made but there is much more to remove.

## **Reports**

N/A

### **Notice of Upcoming Meetings/Workshops: Reminder of Dates**

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted there is one more Hunterdon Land Trust Stewardship Day on August 19 at Idell Preserve which is located at 50 Barbertown Idell Rd.

### **Stewardship**

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported that she, Ralph Celebre and Mara Tippet met Jack MacConnell at Horseshoe Bend Park (HBP) on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 where he suggested areas for invasive species removal. They removed multiflora rose near the beginning of the Blue Trail and found some native species such as bloodroot and solomon seal. The next stewardship day is at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 and will be at Kingwood Township Park by the Melnyk Pond to alternate locations with HPB. Chair Debbie Kratzer would like to have the upcoming Stewardship Days added to the Kingwood Township calendar.

### **Rockfall Mitigation**

Lance Riggio noted the subcommittee consists of three members of the Environmental Commission (Debbie Kratzer, Gail Ashley and Mara Tippet) along with Richard Dodds, Lindsay Napolitano, Steve Freeman and himself. They will be meeting on the second Monday of the month beginning on June 12, 2023 and the public can attend this meeting as well.

### **Groundwater and Well Ordinance**

Lois Voronin stated she could not locate the document to review the updates for the presentation. Chair Debbie Kratzer will send it to Lois and suggested meeting with her to finalize the update. Mara Tippet offered to help as well.

### **Sustainable Kingwood**

Mara Tippet attended the Sustainability Summit at Bell Labs in Holmdel, NJ. She felt the event was very helpful, there were great workshops, presentations, maps, and tools. She hopes the Kingwood School will get involved again with the Sustainable Schools Program.

### **Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committees Meeting News and Update**

Sandra McNicol reported the Committees are updating their respective ordinances, Chapter 32: Open Space and Chapter 74: Farming.

Sandra McNicol noted County and the State have decided they are not going to contact people on the target farm list by letter, instead they want to do word of mouth to get people interested in farm preservation.

Lance Riggio stated the new tick disease, Babesiosis, was discussed at the last meeting. The symptoms are like Lyme's Disease but also include the possibility of having an allergic reaction to red meat.

### **Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting News and Update**

Lance Riggio reported the dog park was closed due to holes that are tripping hazards. The Parks and Recreation Committee spent the weekend filling in the holes. They are adding signage for people to use the dog park responsibly.

Lance Riggio noted one third of the monies needed to fund the fireworks display at Community Day have been donated.

Lance Riggio stated there has been some progress with updating the language of the Volunteer Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement and hopes it will be reviewed and approved at the next Township Committee meeting.

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

Sandra McNicol stated there has discussion about having an Electric Vehicle charging station in Kingwood Township and having an ordinance for it.

Sandra McNicol reported Kingwood Township has an ordinance that states only one cargo container is allowed on a property and there is a farm that has numerous containers. They requested the Township Attorney to find out why the County Agriculture Board superseded the Kingwood Township ordinance to allow more than one container however, there hasn't been a response yet.

Sandra McNicol noted there is a new Zoning officer, John Fleming, who was asked to get information about a Port-A-Potty business on Route 12 that recently materialized.

### **Recycling and Clean Communities Updates**

Secretary Debbi Hutton noted there wasn't a response from Michael Ewing, Clean Communities Coordinator for an update. Michele Tipton-Walters, Recycling Coordinator, responded that there was not a new update. Sandra McNicol asked Lance Riggio if the Township Committee has received the Tonnage Report and the Clean Communities Report from the Coordinators which are submitted to the State; Lance Riggio did not believe that they were received yet.

### **New Business**

Sandra McNicol shared an image of a Clinton Walmart recycling bin that is used to collect various plastic wrapping such as dry-cleaning bags, produce bags and product wrappers and thought this was good news for recycling.

Chair Debbie Kratzer asked if the EC members wanted to continue with the well testing and septic pumping programs. The members thought the well testing program should continue but wasn't sure the septic pumping program offered a great discount and few residents signed up for it last year. Mara Tippettt suggested providing a reminder and information about septic pumping companies instead of having the septic pumping program this year.

Sandra McNicol thought a flyer could be mailed to residents to remind them to visit the Kingwood Township website to get information or get involved in the community programs and the various Committees/Commissions/Boards. Lois Voronin suggested a flyer could be disseminated at Community Day and Lance Riggio thought a Township table could be set up at Community Day to try to solicit volunteers. The Environmental Commission members would like a table as well.

Chair Debbie Kratzer shared an article: Murphy Administration Marks First Anniversary of Law Limiting Single-Use Plastics in NJ. She quoted several positive statistics from the article such as "There has been a more than 37% decrease in single-use plastics in each of three categories affected by the law, including single-use plastic bags, foam food containers and straws found as litter along the Jersey shore."

### **Old Business**

Mara Tippettt explained she applied to the Xerces Society's Northeast Monarch and Pollinator Habitat Kit however, the EC did not receive the funding. She believed the funding was awarded to more urban areas.

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated Gail Ashley gave her the rainfall article she was working on for the 2022 Annual Report. She asked everyone to work on their sections as they need to get this done since it's nearly halfway through the year.

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted the EC has been working on updating the Environmental Commission ordinance (Chapter 15). The EC members reviewed and discussed the recommended revisions. Mara Tippettt suggested sending the revised document to ANJEC for their review and input. Chair Debbie Kratzer agreed to do this before finalizing the document which would then be sent to the Kingwood Township Committee with the recommendation to amend the ordinance.

### **Adjournment**

Mara Tippettt made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 pm, seconded by Sandra McNicol, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debra Hutton, Secretary