

**KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**June 27, 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. 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  
Mara Tippet  
Priscilla Hayes  
Debbie Kratzer  
Lois Voronin  
Timothy Cahalin (joined the meeting at 7:41 pm)

**Absent**

Ralph Celebre  
Gail Ashley  
Betsy Combs  
Sandra McNicol

**Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor**

Chair Debbie Kratzer welcomed Robert McEwan who represents Solebury Township (PA) on the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Rivers Partnership. He made a presentation regarding the tributary expansion program which seeks to add the Copper and Lockatong Creeks in Kingwood Township to the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River (LDWSR) designation. He stated the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was signed in 1968 and in 2000, the LDWSR was designated and as such the riverfront in Kingwood Township is part of that designation. He explained the process for adding potential tributaries to the LDWSR and provided a draft resolution for adding these creeks to the designation.

The EC members discussed the tributary expansion program. Mara Tippet pointed out that a portion of the Wickechoke Creek is in Kingwood Township and should be included along with the Copper and Lockatong Creeks in the proposed draft resolution endorsing these creeks to be a part of the LDWSR designation.

**Motion for the Environmental Commission to Submit a Letter of Support to Endorse the Inclusion of the Lockatong Creek, Copper Creek and the Wickechoke Creek to the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Designation**

It was moved by Mara Tippet and seconded by Lois Voronin to submit a letter of support to the Kingwood Township Committee to endorse adding the Lockatong, Copper and Wickechoke Creeks to the LDWSR designation.

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

## **Approval of Minutes**

### **Motion to Approve the May 23, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission**

It was moved by Lois Voronin and seconded by Mara Tippet and carried to approve the May 23, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission with corrections.

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

**Under the Approval of Minutes, Roll Call, the May 23, 2022 minutes state:** Mara Tippet was listed under Absent with a notation that she joined the meeting at 7:53 pm.

**Revision:** Mara Tippet will be moved to the Present column with the notation that she joined the meeting at 7:53 pm.

## **Correspondence**

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated a letter was received from the Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District concerning Unauthorized Soil Disturbance (Block 35, Lot 13.02). There were no comments regarding this letter.

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported a Notification Letter to all Property Owners and Regulatory Agencies within 200' of Block 10, Lot 2 (Applicant: Blitzen LLC) was received. It was only a wetland delineation notification with no reasons stated, therefore until more information is provided, there were no comments regarding this notification.

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted Potable Well Testing Letters regarding Kingwood Road and State Highway 12 Groundwater Contamination was received. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection sent the letters to 20 property owners located near a well that was tested and showed elevated levels of tetrachloroethene (PCE). The NJDEP would like to sample the potable wells of these 20 property owners. Mara Tippet stated she believed the testing could have been initiated by a home sale as PCE is a mandatory chemical to test for when selling a home in New Jersey.

## **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 and Mara Tippet went to Melnyk Pond near the Kingwood Department of Public Works on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 to work on removing invasive species and straightening tree tubes. The next Stewardship Day will be held on Tuesday, July 11, 2023. She also stated the Stewardship Day dates are now on the Kingwood Township calendar in case any public wants to join in helping them.

## **Rockfall Mitigation**

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated there was a subcommittee meeting to prepare for the upcoming meeting with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT). Lance Riggio reported that at that NJDOT meeting, Meredith Hammond (NJDOT representative) waited until the very end of the meeting to state that the rockfalls have been deemed a risk, therefore the rockfall mitigation project will move forward. Mara Tippet noted that although the project will be moving forward, the mitigation method that will be used has not been finalized.

## **Groundwater and Well Ordinance**

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported that she, Mara Tippet and Lois Voronin will be meeting as a subcommittee this upcoming month to work on revising the Environmental Commission Board of Health groundwater presentation.

## **Sustainable Kingwood**

Mara Tippet stated there wasn't anything new to report this month for Sustainable Kingwood.

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

Lance Riggio gave an overview of what was discussed at the last Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committees meeting such as they are revising their Chapters 32 (Open Space) and 74 (Farming) and ideas on how to better reach residents by disseminating information with a mailer and possibly at a table at Community Day.

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

Mara Tippett reported the Fishing Derby and Senior Picnic were recently held. She stated the Union Road park house repairs were discussed as well as what type of person who would live there (Parks Director, emergency services person).

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

Lois Voronin stated she has not seen the proposed 1076 Route 12 mulching facility on the Board of Adjustment agenda yet. She reported that installing an electric charging station was discussed at the last Planning Board meeting and it was decided they were not going to pursue this idea nor the grant to help fund this project.

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

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated she reviewed the recycling tonnage report and was glad to see that recycling was occurring in Kingwood Township but was hoping the report contained summary numbers, but it did not.

### **Old Business**

Mara Tippett stated she will have October dates to propose to the EC members at the next EC meeting for the well testing program. The EC members would like to provide information about septic pumping at Community Day instead of having the discount septic pumping program this year as they felt the septic companies didn't offer a great discount.

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated she is still working on the 2022 Annual Report. She asked Mara Tippett to resend the water testing information and Priscilla Hayes noted she needs to work on the Stormwater section. Debbie Kratzer asked Lance Riggio if Kingwood Township will be applying for the Stormwater grants available to implement the new Tier A regulations and he said he will follow up at the next Kingwood Township Committee meeting.

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted the EC has been working on updating the Environmental Commission ordinance (Chapter 15). The EC members reviewed the recommended revisions last month and Mara Tippett will send the revised document to ANJEC for their review and input.

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated she spoke Troutscapes, a stream restoration company, who will be doing work on Copper Creek. The project is mostly on private property but some of it is on Horseshoe Bend Park property. She would like to invite them to speak at a future EC meeting to explain the project.

### **Adjournment**

Mara Tippett made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 pm, seconded by Priscilla Hayes, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debra Hutton, Secretary