

KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 22, 2023
7:30 pm

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chair Debbie Kratzer at 7:34 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.

Roll Call

Present

Lance Riggio
Debbie Kratzer
Ralph Celebre
Lois Voronin
Priscilla Hayes
Elizabeth Combs

Absent

Mara Tippet
Timothy Cahalin
Gail Ashley (arrived 8:30pm)
Sandra McNicol

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

The applicant for 1076 Route 12, LLC proposed recycling facility and their attorney (Nicole Voigt) and lead civil engineer (Larry Murphy) were present and provided information about their application to the Kingwood BOA. The application is not yet deemed complete by the Kingwood BOA, but they expect to be complete in October. Files submitted are publicly available on the BOA website: <https://www.kingwoodtownship.com/boards/zone>. The application is for a use variance in Kingwood’s scenic corridor and other variances. They described the project, regulations that will apply to the project during operation, and permits required prior to construction. NJDEP regulates solid waste and there will be review by the county. Various state regulations and local ordinances apply, such as stormwater, odor, noise, steep slopes, and wetlands. The design sheets were presented that illustrate the stormwater plans, mulch and compost piles, tree removal, tree planting, etc. A fire suppression plan will be reviewed by a fire official. Noise from the tub grinder was discussed and, while trees are planned to be planted on the berm, Mr. Murphy said that trees are not good for sound buffering, there must be something solid, like a berm. They are planning on installing a 5-6’ tall berm along Route 12. Mulch piles are planned to be up to 25’ tall. The applicant’s attorney will be reaching out to schedule a site visit (aiming for mid-September) with township professionals and up to 3 EC members.

Approval of Minutes

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

It was moved by Lois Voronin and seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to approve the July 25, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission.

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

Correspondence

Debbie Kratzer shared the finalized Memo from EC to BOA re Class B Recycling Facility (sent 7/27/2023). She shared information about the Invasive Chinese Pond Mussel, which had been found in the headwaters of Wickecheoke Creek and was thought to be eradicated. If anyone finds mussels, and especially if they're unusually large, they should report the sighting to Robert.somes@dep.nj.gov.

The New Jersey Mycological Association shared a Species List found in Horseshoe Bend Park, including several species identified for the first time this year.

Reports

None

Notice of Upcoming Meetings/Workshops: Reminder of Dates

August 26: Hunterdon County Hazardous Waste Cleanup Day (see flyer for details)

September 12: EC Stewardship – location and time TBD

September 18, 25, October 23, 30: Rutgers Earth Day/Every Day Webinar Series Renewable Energies in the Garden State ([link](#)) (also, past webinar recordings are available)

October 13: ANJEC Environmental Congress 9am-5pm, In-Person

October 17-19: ANJEC Environmental Congress Virtual Sessions

October 21: 9 am – 12 pm at Idell Preserve (50 Barbertown Idell Rd) ([link](#))

November 4, 6: Well Testing with Raritan Headwaters (see flyer for details)

Stewardship

The next Stewardship Day will be held Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 5pm at Horseshoe Bend Park, tentatively to remove invasive species. Debbie Kratzer will reach out to Parks and Rec for suggestions of what is needed.

Rockfall Mitigation

There are no new updates because the workgroup is awaiting the NJDOT to schedule a new meeting. It's expected to be scheduled mid-September.

Groundwater and Well Ordinance

Sandra McNicol had shared a news article on adoption of a Nockamixon Township, PA groundwater ordinance, as well as a copy of the ordinance. Nockamixon shares the same geology and aquifer characteristics as Kingwood.

Sustainable Kingwood

Ralph Celebre stated that Sustainable Kingwood might have a table at community day, such as reaching out to vulnerable populations, which is an action for SJ points.

Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting News and Update

No meeting.

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting News and Update

Kingwood Community is scheduled for 9/30 community day from 4-8 pm and the EC plans to have a table for sharing environmental information. Several members said they're available to be at the EC table, and the schedule will be finalized at the next EC meeting. Lance will let the Parks and Rec Committee know that the EC would like a table.

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

Mara Tippett had shared surveys that had been sent in previous years.

Recycling and Clean Communities Updates

Hunterdon County Hazardous Waste Cleanup Day will be held on August 26.

New Business

Debbie Kratzer asked Committeeman Riggio if the former EC secretary's email is being forwarded to anyone in case anything important comes in for the EC during this period with no EC secretary. He will follow up on this question and will also try to enable screen sharing for the next meeting.

Old Business

As agreed at the July meeting, Raritan Headwaters will offer well testing on November 4 (pick up kits) and November 6 (drop off water samples). The flyer was reviewed and further details are on their website <http://testmywell.org>.

A draft memo from EC to TC re Wild and Scenic Tributaries was reviewed. Ralph Celebre made a motion to send the memo to the Township Committee in support of LDWSR designation, which was seconded by Priscilla Hayes , and was unanimously approved.

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

The Draft Annual Report for 2022 was reviewed and several comments were made.

Adjournment

Priscilla Hayes made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ralph Celebre, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Kratzer, Chair of Environmental Commission