

KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes

July 25, 2023

7:30 pm

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order by Chair Debbie Kratzer at 7:34 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. Your cooperation is appreciated. The meeting was virtual and hosted on Zoom with the link posted on the Kingwood Township website.

Roll Call

Present

Sandra McNicol
Mara Tippet
Priscilla Hayes
Debbie Kratzer
Lois Voronin
Ralph Celebre
Gail Ashley
Lance Riggio (joined the meeting at 7:58 pm)

Absent

Timothy Cahalin
Betsy Combs

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

Samantha LaRocca, Raritan Headwaters Well Test Program Manager, was present on the Zoom meeting and stated she felt last years community well water testing event was successful and would like to conduct the event again this year.

Motion for the Environmental Commission to Have Raritan Headwaters Conduct the 2023 Well Water Testing Event

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Priscilla Hayes and carried to approve the EC having the Raritan Headwaters Association offer the 2023 well water testing event in the Kingwood Township Municipal Parking lot.

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

Samantha LaRocca suggested selling the well test kits on Saturday, November 4, 2023 and Tuesday, November 7 and the well test kit drop off on Wednesday, November 8, 2023. Sandra McNicol pointed out that Tuesday is Election Day. The EC members discussed the dates and times and decided on Saturday, November 4 from 9 am to 12 pm for the sale as Saturday was when most residents came to purchase their well test kits last year. The drop off date for the well test kit sample will be Monday, November 6 from 7 am to 9:30 am.

Mara Tippet asked Samantha LaRocca to provide septic information for the Kingwood Township Fall Newsletter as the EC is not going to pursue a discount septic pumping program this year. Lois Voronin thought the septic information and well testing program information should be disseminated at Community Day.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve the June 27, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Priscilla Hayes and carried to approve the June 27, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Correspondence

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated the Environmental Commission Secretary, Debbi Hutton, is resigning. The EC members thanked Debbi for her help as EC Secretary. Debbi stated she enjoyed working with the EC over the last three years.

Notice of Upcoming Meetings/Workshops: Reminder of Dates

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted the Hunterdon Land Trust Stewardship Day will be on August 19 at Idell Preserve which is located at 50 Barbertown Idell Rd.

Stewardship

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported that at the last Stewardship Day on July 11 she went to the rain garden to do some weeding. The EC members discussed ideas for the next Stewardship Day on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 5 pm and decided on straightening tree tubes at Kingwood Park since Community Day is being held there at the end of September.

Rockfall Mitigation

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted there was a meeting with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) last week. At that meeting Lance Riggio reported the NJDOT presented six rockfall mitigation options, but none were minimally invasive or less impactful to the environment and scenic area. Mara Tippet stated NJDOT did not do environmental studies on the various options they outlined; however, the option that is chosen would then have an environmental study done. Debbi Kratzer asked at the meeting if there would be an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) and NJDOT indicated they were pursuing an exemption for performing the EIS. Debbi Kratzer wants the Rockfall Mitigation information posted to the Kingwood Township website and Lance Riggio indicated he is working on getting that done.

Groundwater and Well Ordinance

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported revising the Environmental Commission Board of Health groundwater presentation has not occurred yet but will soon. Sandra McNicol stated she has been collecting documents that are cited in the well ordinance and wanted to know if she should continue doing this. The EC members thought it is a good idea and discussed options for housing these documents such as hard copies kept in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building, putting them on an internal shared drive and posting the documents on the Kingwood Township website. Lance Riggio offered to help get the shared drive established and working with Diane Laudenbach to get them posted on the website.

Sustainable Kingwood

Priscilla Hayes stated she attended the Sustainable Hunterdon County Hub meeting. She spoke to a supervising planner who indicated there is a possibility of Hunterdon County hiring an intern to develop a database for conservation easements. She also spoke to a recycling person about the proposed Route 12 recycling facility.

Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committees Meeting News and Update

Sandra McNicol reported preservation signs for the Gergar property have finally been installed. She explained the property was preserved in 2008 and a monument was put in on the property but wanted the signs to advertise the preservation like the signage that is at the Melnyk and Ukarish properties.

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting News and Update

Mara Tippet reported there was discussion of bringing the Union Road Park manager’s house up to livable conditions at the last meeting. She stated the Town Wide Yard Sale will be held on October 7th and 8th, 2023. Lance Riggio explained there is a revised Volunteer Waiver, Release, Hold Harmless, and Indemnification Agreement that needs to be filled out for volunteers using heavy machinery as well as the EC members who do volunteer work in the Township. Lance Riggio stated there is an opportunity to have tables set up to disseminate information to residents at Community Day.

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

Priscilla Hayes reported she attended the Board of Adjustment (BOA) meeting where the proposed 1076 Route 12 recycling facility was to be discussed. The Township Engineer deemed the application incomplete therefore no comments were taken on this issue. The next BOA meeting is scheduled for August 9th and will probably only be to determine if the application is complete however, comments may also be taken at this time. Lois Voronin stated the facility isn’t an allowed zoning use for this area and wanted to know if Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) can override the Kingwood Township Zoning regulations. Priscilla Hayes thought SWAC could override it as there isn’t a facility of this type in Hunterdon County. The EC members discussed topics such as the potential additional traffic going to the facility, decaying leaves/nitrate levels and the potential runoff into the various creeks that are adjacent to this property.

Motion to Draft a Letter to Submit to the Board of Adjustment Outlining the Environmental Commission’s Preliminary Concerns and Questions Regarding the Proposed Route 12 Recycling Center

It was moved by Mara Tippet and seconded by Priscilla Hayes and carried to approve drafting a letter to submit to the BOA outlining the EC’s preliminary concerns and questions regarding the proposed Route 12 recycling center.

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

Recycling and Clean Communities Updates

Secretary Debbi Hutton stated there is no new update from Michele Tipton-Walters, Recycling Coordinator. Debbi Hutton explained she hasn’t received an update from Michael Ewing, Clean Communities Coordinator in the last few months. Priscilla Hayes suggested the EC should invite Michael Ewing to the next Environmental Commission meeting to go over the Clean Communities report. Lance Riggio said he would bring it up at the next Township Committee meeting.

New Business

Chair Debbie Kratzer shared an article regarding wishful recycling with the EC members.

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated Hunterdon County developed a 2023 Recycling and Waste Guide. Secretary Debbi Hutton asked if the EC members would like to have this posted on the Environmental Commission web page and they would.

Old Business

Chair Debbie Kratzer stated Robert McEwan, representative from the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Rivers Partnership, made a presentation at the last EC meeting explaining the tributary expansion program for the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River (LDWSR) designation. He prepared a draft resolution for adding the Copper and Locketong Creeks to the designation. Chair Debbie Kratzer added the Wickecheoke and Warford Creeks to the draft resolution and Sandra McNicol thought the Little Nishisakawick Creek should be included in the draft resolution as well.

Chair Debbie Kratzer noted they are making progress towards completing the Draft Annual Report of 2022.

Mara Tippet stated she sent the revised Environmental Commission ordinance (Chapter 15) to ANJEC for their review and is awaiting comments from them.

Chair Debbie Kratzer reported that she invited Brian Cowden of Troutscapes, a stream restoration company, to the August EC meeting to explain the project they will be doing on Copper Creek and she inquired about visiting the site.

Lance Riggio stated that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Stormwater Assistance grant was approved for Kingwood Township. This grant will help in implementing the new Tier A regulations.

Lois Voronin inquired about the flooding that is now occurring on Muddy Run Road. Lance Riggio explained the Engineering Report stated the new County-built bridge is not the cause of the flooding although there wasn't a conclusion as to why the flooding was happening.

Adjournment

Sandra McNicol made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 pm, seconded by Mara Tippett, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Hutton, Secretary