

**KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**September 26, 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  
Timothy Cahalin  
Gail Ashley (arrived 8:30pm)  
Ralph Celebre  
Sandra McNicol  
Priscilla Hayes  
Mara Tippet  
Lois Voronin

**Absent**

Elizabeth Combs

**Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor**

The new environmental commission secretary, Erin Pinelli, introduced herself. She is a resident of Kingwood and a teacher in Trenton and will be starting this new role next month.

Brian Cowden, Principal of Trout Scapes River Restoration LLC, gave a presentation about the planned restoration of a section of Copper Creek, where stream banks had been severely eroded by Hurricane Ida in 2021. Trout Scapes has done several similar stream restoration projects in New Jersey, including the Lamington River at Burnt Mills, Capoolong Creek in Franklin Township, and Walnut Brook at Flemington. They are also doing stream restorations on Locketong and Alexauken Creeks in Delaware Township. The Copper Creek project was initiated by landowners, who reached out to Hunterdon Soil Conservation Service. The project is funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through the farm bill. Mr. Cowden described the work that will be done, which will include installing boulder bars and removal of excess cobble. He requested the Kingwood DPW to provide labor and a truck to load up and take away cobble. The stream bank area will then be seeded with an appropriate mix of Piedmont native herbaceous plants under coir matting to prevent erosion. Live stakes will be planted in spring or fall, although they expect low recruitment due to deer browsing. Landowners will plant trees and shrubs protected by tree tubes on their private properties. There may be containerized plants available for restoring the Horseshoe Bend Park East property. The EC members suggested volunteers could help with the tree planting. The work will probably

be done in June/July/August 2024. He is not sure how many truckloads of cobble will need to be removed, and this may depend on how many days Kingwood can supply DPW labor. There will need to be a plan for where the soil will be stockpiled and used. The soil must leave the floodplain. We need to find out if the township needs to get a permit from Hunterdon SCS for this. This should be discussed with the TC at their November 2 meeting.

A motion to recommend that the Township Committee approve the Department of Public Works to provide labor and a truck to assist the Copper Creek project was made by Priscilla Hayes and seconded by Mara Tippet. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

### **Approval of Minutes**

#### **Motion to Approve the August 22, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission**

It was moved by Ralph Celebre and seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to approve the August 22, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission.

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

### **Correspondence**

Debbie Kratzer shared information about the annual ANJEC Environmental Congress Registration and workshop descriptions. Mara is attending through her work. No one else is able to attend.

### **Reports**

None

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

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

*September 30:* 4:00-8:00 pm Kingwood Community Day at Kingwood Park

*October 7-8:* Annual Township Wide Yard Sale

*October 10:* EC Stewardship – location and time TBD

*October 13:* ANJEC Environmental Congress 9am-5pm, In-Person ([link](#))

*October 14:* Kingwood Clean Up Day (must pre-register)

*October 17-19:* ANJEC Environmental Congress Virtual Sessions ([link](#))

*October 18:* NJDEP Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan comment period ends ([link](#))

*October 21:* 11:00 am – 2:00 pm at Idell Preserve (50 Barbertown Idell Rd) ([link](#))

*October 21:* Hunterdon County Shredding Event ([link](#))

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

*November 18:* Hunterdon County Electronics Recycling ([link](#))

### **Stewardship**

On September 12, upon the request from Parks and Recreation, Debbie and Ralph walked the Horseshoe Bend Park “meadow” field and flagged invasive trees for P&R to remove. They flagged about 6 invasive royal pawlonia

(Paulownia tomentosa) trees. The next Stewardship Day will be Tuesday, October 10, 2023 (last one for the year), and it was agreed to meet at 5pm at the Ukarish property to do tree maintenance.

### **Rockfall Mitigation**

The NJDOT has scheduled the third meeting of the Design Working Group for October 2. They will be sharing their proposed options for areas A, B, and C (but not area D, which is the segment that includes the Devils Tea Table).

### **Groundwater and Well Ordinance**

Debbie will share the old presentation with Lois so updates can be made.

### **Sustainable Kingwood**

Ralph Celebre stated that Sustainable Kingwood will share "register ready brochure and information" at a table at community day, which is for reaching out to vulnerable populations, which is an action for SJ points.

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

NJDEP Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan was discussed.

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

Kingwood Community is scheduled for 9/30 from 4-8 pm. Parks and Recreation's plan is to have no paper handouts, but will provide a QR code that will take people to the Kingwood website. The EC can add any forms and information for distribution to the public. These should be sent by 9/27 to Michelle Tipton-Walters. It was decided that the conservation easement brochure, septic maintenance brochure and community well test flyer should be shared. Debbie will bring an Enviroscope, which is a watershed model for teaching about sources of pollution and what actions every individual can take to reduce pollution. Tim will donate small food items to give away to attract people to the table. Ralph will provide "register ready" forms for Sustainable Jersey. Debbie, Priscilla, Lois, and Ralph will staff the EC table.

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

The PB is working on an ordinance concerning events on preserved farms. The BOA application for a wood recycling facility has been postponed until October.

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

Hunterdon County plans a document shredding event on October 21 and an Electronics Recycling event on November 18.

### **New Business**

Kingwood's stormwater plan will be shared for the next EC meeting.

### **Old Business**

Debbie Kratzer reviewed the memo sent from the EC to the TC supporting adding the Little Nishisakawick, Copper, Lockatong, and Wickecheoke Creeks in Kingwood Township to the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River (LDWSR) designation. Robert McEwan, who represents Solebury Township (PA) on the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Rivers Partnership, made a presentation at the September TC meeting and the TC voted to support the effort.

A revised draft of the 2022 EC Annual Report was reviewed. Mara Tippet made a motion to approve the report with the changes and send to the Township Committee, which was seconded by Sandra McNicol, and was unanimously approved.

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

**Adjournment**

Mara Tippet made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ralph Celebre, which was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Kratzer, Chair of Environmental Commission