

KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 28, 2023
7:30 pm

The meeting was called to order by Chair Deborah Kratzer at 7:33 pm.

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- Gail Ashley, Ralph Celebre, Elizabeth Combs, Priscilla Hayes, Deborah Kratzer, Sandra McNicol, Lois Voronin, Lance Riggio

Absent- Timothy Cahalin, Mara Tippet

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor (None)

Approval of Minutes

- (1) Approval of October 24, 2023 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes- Motion made by Sandra McNicol, Seconded by Gail Ashley.
Approved-Gail Ashley, Ralph Celebre, Priscilla Hayes, Deborah Kratzer, Sandra McNicol, Lois Voronin
Abstained- Elizabeth Combs
Absent- Timothy Cahalin, Mara Tippet
Comment: Lois requested that the minutes always be presented in PDF format.

Correspondence

- (2) Memo from EC to TC regarding Copper Creek 10/26/2023
- (3) DEP Notice of Suspected Discharge 11/09/2023- standard oil tank

Reports

Municipal Climate Resilience Planning Guide (NJBAC) <https://www.nj.gov/state/planning/assets/docs/meeting-materials/spc/materials/njbac-municipal-climate-resilience-planning-guide.pdf> - This guide will become relevant when Kingwood updates the Master Plan through the planning board. This guide should be shared with the Secretary of Planning Board.

The Fifth National Climate Assessment <https://www.usda.gov/oce/energy-and-environment/climate/fifth-national-climate-assessment>

Notice of Upcoming Meetings/Workshops: Reminder of Dates

November 30: Webinar - Delaware River: Geologic History and Flows in the River over Millennia with Pierre Lacombe ([register](#))

December 12: Webinar – Sustainable Jersey: Winter Best Practices to Reduce Road Salt Webinar ([register](#)) (4) December 14: Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River - Meeting

(4) December 18: Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River - Mini-Grant Deadline

Recorded Webinar: Enhanced Stormwater Management Ordinances in 2023 ([YouTube](#))

Stewardship

Copper Creek stream restoration – EC asked Lance if this was brought up at the November Township Committee meeting, to which Lance replied that it was not because there were no liaison reports at the last meeting, but that he will bring it up at the December 7, 2023 meeting. Landowners are requesting some assistance from the township with the rock removal (DPW). Lance will bring it up at the next meeting to see about coordinating with DPW and township. It was also suggested that we plan another meeting with the consultant to discuss where the removed rocks will be going and what they can be used for.

(5) Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River - Mini-Grant (Deadline December 18) It was decided that there is not enough time to prepare a proposal before this deadline. EC members can think of ideas to be prepared for a future grant opportunity.

Rockfall Mitigation – A meeting is scheduled on December 14, 2023 to present Area D. The last meeting was held on November 3, 2023 and they shared a model of what would happen if a rock were to fall and the possible solutions to prevent the falling rocks from causing injury. There were lots of flaws in the model at this time.

Groundwater and Well Ordinance

(6) State Highway Route 12 and Kingwood Road Groundwater Contamination Notice PI#1018533- Deborah believes this to be a follow up. EC is not sure why DEP is sending the notice or involved. This property may have been a house that was demolished on the property. The test came back clear.

Sustainable Kingwood- Ralph is still trying to reach out to Kingwood's Senior Citizen groups to inform and assist them with the Register Ready program. There is a senior breakfast at the Kingwood School where the information will be shared with the residents and attendees.

Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting News and Update

NJ SADC - Proposed Soil Protection Standards rules published in the New Jersey Register on August 7, 2023 at 55 NJR 8(1). ([Proposed rule change](#))([website](#) includes public hearing recording). Comment deadline extended to February 2024.

EC would like to review and come up with some ideas for comments at the next EC meeting.

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting News and Update- Kingwood's Annual Christmas Tree lighting will take place on December 2, 2023, at 4:00. The last meeting was focused on a discussion of the park manager's house and funding to keep it heated for the up-coming winter and possible uptake in weather related care.

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

1076 State Highway 12, Block 12, Lot 11 - Proposed Wood Recycling Facility- Lois and Priscilla attended a site visit. The site plan is not complete yet. EC has some concerns about a lack of planning regarding soil containment, no determination of need of water for the facility, and that the traffic plan is not reflective of realistic traffic scenarios. Lois and Priscilla will be drafting a memo with assistance from Gail. Debbie suggested that they ask

more questions rather than make comments in the memo at this stage. This memo will be shared and reviewed at the December 19th EC meeting.

Recycling and Clean Communities Updates – Erin will follow up with Michele and Mike for an update or report. Nothing at this time.

New Business

(7) EC Audit Report for 2023 The EC did not spend all of their budget this year because there was no mailing. Budget needs for 2024 were discussed, such as using funds to create something interactive for Community Day to get more people to visit our table and discuss and learn about environmental issues, or possibly using funds to buy tree seedlings to plant on open space properties.

(7A) EC Budget Request for 2024- Motion was made by Lois and seconded by Ralph to request the same amount as last year (\$1,200).

Aye-Gail Ashley, Ralph Celebre, Elizabeth Combs, Priscilla Hayes, Deborah Kratzer, Sandra McNicol, Lois Voronin
Nay- None

Abstain- None

Absent- Timothy Cahalin, Mara Tippet

Reorganization Meeting Date for ad to be posted- Tuesday, January 23, 2024 @ 7:30 pm. Erin will look into whose term is up for reappointment.

Develop schedule to review stormwater ordinances- All the ordinances should be reviewed for the enforcement section. All of the ordinances need to be on file for the Stormwater Management Grant. (8)

Stormwater ordinance 13 - 2023 Wildlife Feeding

(9) Stormwater ordinance 15 - 2023 Pet Waste Disposal

(10) Stormwater ordinance 16 - 2023 Litter Control

(11) Stormwater ordinance 17 - 2023 Yard Waste- Gail Ashley asked if the township picked up yard waste, and they did not. This should be amended.

(12) Stormwater ordinance 20- 2023 Tree Removal and Replacement -EC would like to take a closer look at the December meeting.

(13) Stormwater ordinance 21 - 2023 Illicit Storm Drain Connections

(14) New – finalized model ordinance tree removal and replacement

(15) Chapter 15 amended ordinance- The EC members agreed that they are happy with the ordinance changes and are ready to recommend that the Township Committee consider adopting these changes. Debbie will contact Mara to ask if she can provide a version displaying the tracked changes, so the Township Committee can easily see the recommended changes. There was a motion made by Priscilla Hayes and seconded by Gail Ashley to send the amended ordinance to the Township Committee.

Aye- Gail Ashley, Ralph Celebre, Elizabeth Combs, Priscilla Hayes, Deborah Kratzer, Sandra McNicol, Lois Voronin.
Nay- None

Abstain- None

Absent- Timothy Cahalin, Mara Tippet

Adjournment -The motion to adjourn the November 28, 2023 meeting was made by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Lois Voronin at 9:19 pm and all were in favor.