

KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2023

7:30 pm

Call to Order

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, Timothy Cahalin, Ralph Celebre (later), Priscilla Hayes, Debbie Kratzer, Sandra McNicol, Mara Tippet, Lois Voronin, Lance Riggio

Absent- Elizabeth Combs

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

Approval of Minutes

(1) Approval of November 28, 2023 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

-Amend minutes to remove “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” and add it under the Stewardship category.

Added the word “plan” to the Planning Board Section, next to word site- changed to “site plan”.

Motion to approve November 28, 2023 Minutes as amended: Sandra McNicol

seconded by Priscilla Hayes.

Aye: Gail Ashley, Priscilla Hayes, Debbie Kratzer, Sandra McNicol, Lois Voronin

Nay: None

Abstain: Mara Tippet, Timothy Cahalin

Absent: Elizabeth Combs, Ralph Celebre

Correspondence

(2) NJ DEP Hazardous Discharge Notification case #23-11-29-1034-38 11/29/2023 - This is a standard notification.

Reports

Notice of Upcoming Meetings/Workshops: Reminder of Dates

Stewardship

Copper Creek stream restoration - Lance Riggio brought the subject up at the December Township Committee meeting. Public Works Director, Mike Ewing can meet with the project manager to arrange for the use of DPW trucks to haul away materials and coordinate alternative locations for fill removal. The project manager will be in charge of permitting. Debbie will reach out to the project manager to make sure EC is involved and everything runs smoothly.

Rockfall Mitigation- Lance presented a powerpoint presentation from the most recent work session meeting held in December. This presentation focused on Area D and provided more alternatives for that area, including the realignment of the roadway, mass rock removal, a rock shed, or the possible scaling of the backslope, hybrid midslope fencing, and a catchment ditch. The DOT is reviewing the other three areas (A, B, and C) to determine if these alternatives could work in those areas as well. It is hopeful that DOT will have all of these options to present at Work Session 5 in January. Once a decision is made, the township will begin commenting and public hearings.

It was suggested that EC provide a short explanatory memo to include on the website with the powerpoint so that the public is aware of the plans and alternatives offered.

Groundwater and Well Ordinance Lois brought up concerns with the methods that the recharge rate numbers were derived. If taking out faster than flowing in, concern for wells drying up. Debbie mentioned that if time permits, she may be able to look through some old paperwork concerning this information. However, it is believed that this concern would be for older homes, as newer homes have more storage and are dug deeper. . It is something that people should be aware of because the water supply is not without limits. Will research further to see if there was an error, but Debbie feels that it is just because there is a limit on how protective it is. Sandra added that she went through the well ordinance that was referenced and she had them set aside to eventually get them on the township website and offered to forward them to Lois.

Sustainable Kingwood Ralph reported that the Senior breakfast was held last friday and was a success concerning the Register Ready program. There were reportedly around 80 people there who were able to take home the information. Looking forward to now being able to pull together information and use the Sustainable Jersey website and seeking Mara's assistance (which she agreed to help with) in sharing the information. Lance also offered any assistance anyone may need.

Mara added that we were officially recognized at the November New Jersey League of Municipalities meeting for Recertifying.

Priscilla added that Sustainable Hunterdon Hub is having a meeting in January where they are going to talk about the interface between Green Teams and Student Green Teams.

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 will review over the next few weeks to determine if there are any comments to be shared at the January meeting.

The Farmland Preservation Master plan is being worked on and should be coming up soon for public comments. Debbie will send the Guide to Local Climate Change Adaptation Planning for writing a climate element of the master plan to Lance to be shared with the Open Space and Agricultural Committees.

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting News and Update - The Kingwood Township tree lighting was held and was a huge success, measured by 140 cars counted. The turkey trot event was also well attended. The committee is looking at options for upgrading sound systems to be more effective at these types of events. The Committee is beginning to move forward with much needed upgrades and repairs to the manager's house in the park.

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

(3) Draft memo to Township Committee and Board of Adjustment with edits- 1076 State Highway 12, Block 12, Lot 11 - Proposed Wood Recycling Facility -A working memo was drafted by EC members, Priscilla, Gail, and Lois. This draft was shared with EC, but is not yet complete. Priscilla, Gail, and Lois will be meeting to review the site plans and finalize the memo in January to be shared at the January 23, 2024 meeting. It was brought up that any one from the public may attend the Board of Adjustment meeting on January 10, 2024 and comment.

Recycling and Clean Communities Updates - Erin emailed Michele Walters Tipton who had no update at the time. Erin also emailed Mike Ewing asking for an update, but has not yet heard back. Erin will follow up with Mike Ewing.

New Business

(4) Stormwater ordinance 20- 2023 Tree Removal and Replacement. Tim asked about the grant and the specifics of the grant. Lance will follow up concerning the exact numbers (amount) and the specific details. Debbie explained that it was already adopted in order to meet the deadline. Lance explained that there are real no cost impacts to our Township. Priscilla is concerned that it can be problematic adopting ordinances that are not realistic enforcement expectations. It is agreed that these ordinances should be reviewed by the Environmental Commission and that it was a timing issue. Township attorney said that the EC can review and amend as needed, but due to the deadlines, the Township Committee had to move forward at the time.

(5) New – finalized model ordinance tree removal and replacement- Debbie will send comments

(6) Chapter 15 – This was voted on and approved at the November 28, 2023 EC meeting, so no vote needed at this meeting. Debbie will draft a cover memo to accompany the marked changes to the ordinance and send them to the Township Committee for review.

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn was made by Ralph Celebre and was seconded by Sandra McNicol. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin L. Pinelli, Secretary

Approved 1/23/2024