

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 26, 2019
7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:36 p.m. Deborah Kratzer, Chairperson, read aloud the following notice requirements.

Notice Requirement

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by publication of the notice in the Hunterdon County Democrat on January 31, 2019 and the Courier News on January 27, 2019. A copy of the notice was telefaxed to the Express Times and posted at the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on January 23, 2019.

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, and further, all persons are requested to utilize the microphones which are provided for your use by the Township. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Roll Call

Present

**Maureen Syrnick
Debbie Kratzer
Mara Tippett
Sandra McNicol
Ralph Celebre
Timothy Cahalin
Betsy Combs**

Absent

**Gail Ashley
Lois Voronin
Cynthia Niciecki**

Privilege of the Floor

Elizabeth Combs took the Oath of Office for 2019 to serve a three year term as alternate Committee member.

Approval of January 22, 2019 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, and seconded by Mara Tippett and carried to approve the January 22, 2019 Environmental Commission Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes with noted typo correction in title.

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

Correspondence

Letter to Willard Reasoner

Reviewed

Cellco dba Verizon Application and Waiver for Re-Development

Committee discussed the pros and cons of white vs. red light at the top of the stealth tower.

S. McNicol will research what the current requirements are for tower safety lighting.

ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Environmental Commission Grant

Grant application is due by April 15, 2019. Committee discussed best use for this \$1,500.00 grant.

Suggestions were:

Restoration and maintenance of riparian areas bird boxes etc,

Conservation Easement Inventory, monitoring, outreach and resident education.

Conservation Element of Township Master Plan.

Motion that the Township Committee Approve the Environmental Commission’s Application for ANJEC Environmental Commission Grant.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, and seconded by Mara Tippet and carried to approve the Environmental Committee’s request that the Township Committee approve the Environmental Commission’s application for the ANJEC Environmental Commission Grant

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

Notice of upcoming meetings/workshops: Reminder of Dates

Raritan Headwaters Seminar March 5, 2019

11th Annual FoHVos Invasive Species Strike Team March 27, 2019 9:30am-3:30pm

Horseshoe Bend Park Tree Giveaway April 6, 2019 9:00am-1:00pm

Nature Conservancy Tree Planting at Kingwood Park April 13, 2019 Time to be determined

I-Denta Shred Event – Kingwood Park – April 27, 2019 – Volunteers Needed!

Reports

Donnelly Energy Quotes for Township LED Lighting

The Commission members discussed the potential savings to this Clean Energy program. It was requested that the this topic be placed on the Township Committee meeting agenda for March 7, 2019

Co-op Electric

M. Syrnick presented information regarding the Delaware River Area Renewable Energy Procurement Cooperative (DRAREPC). This is a cooperative energy purchasing group made up of surrounding municipalities for the purpose of purchasing electricity from alternate energy providers with lower rates and higher renewable energy.

Motion to recommend to the Township Committee that Kingwood Township join the Delaware River Area Renewable Energy Procurement Cooperative (DRAREPC).

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, and seconded by Tim Cahalin and carried to approve the Environmental Committee’s request to the Township Committee that Kingwood Township join the DRAREPC Cooperative.

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

Site Plan Review

CELLCO dba Verizon Packet
Reviewed

Old Business

2018 Environmental Commission Annual Report

D. Kratzer requested that Commission members review the draft report and bring any editing suggestions to the March 26, 2019 meeting.

Suggestion was made that a notice be placed on the website to create an email list to be used to send out such information as annual reports.

Other Matters

Recycling News and Update

S. McNicol reported that a letter is being mailed to residents clearly explaining recycling instructions and restrictions. The intent of the letter is that it will help initiate better use of the Township Recycle program. B. Combs recommended that the information be disseminated through the elementary school to help educate younger residents in the proper method of recycling and as an additional method of reaching residents.

The Township Tonnage Report and Clean Communities reports are in progress.

Sustainable Kingwood

June 2nd is the deadline for submission for Sustainable Jersey Bronze certification. Final report with supporting documentation will be due in November.

Sustainable Kingwood committee plans to meet bi-monthly at 7:00pm before the Environmental Commission meeting.

M. Tippet submitted two Sustainable Jersey grant applications; one for \$20,000 to be used for a Township Impervious Cover Reduction plan and for two Green Garden projects. The second grant application is for \$2,000 to be used for a Township Open Space Map and Educational Walk program.

Horseshoe Bend Park – News and Update

N/A

Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committee

S. McNicol discussed the WHIP program. Incentive plan where farmers were paid to delay mowing to enhance the land for migratory bird breeding season. Although the program was successful it will no longer be offered. She would like to seek out local farmers that would be willing to delay mowing without the incentive program.

Luxfer/MEL

T. Cahalin to contact Luxfer representative for report results.

PennEast Pipeline Update:

M. Syrnick reported that a new Comment Period has been established since the Penn East project number has been changed. This project number change means that all previous intervening is now moot. Asking that people register to be an intervenor by March 8, 2019. This list of intervenors will show the court how many people are watching and on the alert for what is going on with the Penn East Pipeline.

Adjournment

It was moved by S. McNicol and seconded by R. Celebre and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:17PM.

All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.

Respectfully submitted by,
Michele Tipton-Walters
Secretary