ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES
December 17, 2019
7:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:40PM
Debbie 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
Lois Voronin
Betsy Combs
Sandra McNicol
Mara Tippett

Absent
Timothy Cahalin
Gail Ashley
Ralph Celebre
Cynthia Niciecki

Privilege of the Floor

Approval of November 19, 2019 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, and seconded by Mara Tippett and carried to approve the November 19, 2019 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye          - Kratzer, Voronin, Combs, Tippett
Nay          - None
Abstain      - McNicol
Absent       - Cahalin, Celebre, Niciecki,
Correspondence
Reviewed

PS&S Notification to Municipal Environmental Commission Re: Multi-Permit Application
Reviewed

NJDEP Notice Open Public Comment Period – Clean Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan (CWSRF IUP)
Reviewed

Report

Action Items
Schedule Stewardship Dates. Tabled to January 28, 2020 Meeting

Site Plan Review
N/A

Other Matters
“Roots for Rivers” Grant Application Update
D. Kratzer reported that she and the Watershed Ambassador presented the “Roots for Rivers” project to the Parks and Recreation Committee at their December Meeting and D. Kratzer presented the same information to the Township Committee at their December meeting. The Township Committee approved their support for this project by Resolution. If the grant is awarded the scheduled date for the tree planting will be April 18, 2020.
It was requested that the Committee find out if extra trees could be ordered and be made available to the public to purchase. S. McNicol will research if there is a fund that would cover the cost of the extra trees.

It was recommended that the Committee determine dates for work projects throughout 2020

Hunterdon Area Energy Cooperative
M. Syrnick explained the current Energy cooperatives that the Township is involved with. The Hunterdon Area Energy Cooperative is the Co-op that Kingwood has decided to join for 2020. This Co-op will offer a lower rate than current suppliers. It does not offer an option to choose a renewable energy option.
The Township is part of the County cooperative which also offers a lower rate and a renewable energy option

Commission Members’ Terms
Maureen Syrnick, Lois Voronin and Betsy Combs are up for reappointment to the Environmental Commission. All of these members were in attendance and agreed to another term.

2020 Reorganization Meeting Date January 28, 2020
S. McNicol will bring 2019 County reports regarding septic repairs and replacements to the January meeting.

M. Tippett reported on Radon Awareness program. She would like to make test kits accessible to Kingwood residents through this program. The Township must obtain bids from three radon testing companies in order to receive reimbursement up to $1,000.

D. Kratzer stated that a population of invasive pond mussels has been eradicated. The invasive species had been in ponds on property owned by NJ Conservation Association in Wickecheoke Creek in Franklin Township. There had been a serious danger of the invasive mussels spreading, but they have been eradicated.

April 22, 202 is the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day and also the NJDEP. To celebrate these milestones, DEP is offering a white oak seedling to every municipality. The seedlings were grown from acorns collected from one of the oldest trees in the state, known as “The Salem Oak” which was unfortunately blown down in a storm in 2019. The Committee is interested in accepting the seedling.

**Horseshoe Bend Park Update**

M. Tippett plans to have a workshop with the all caretakers at Horseshoe Bend Park on how to maintain a wildflower garden to ensure that the new Pollinator Garden isn’t tilled each year and that all are aware of best practice for maintenance. The report for this Pollinator Grant needs to be submitted by year end and M. Tippett was asked to present the project at the next Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic meeting.

**Open Space Report**

S. McNicol reported that there are no new Open Space preservation projects for the Township currently. There are a few that are being preserved through State Direct.

M. Syrnick stated that the Planning Board discussed solar farms at their last meeting. The current Solar Ordinance was written for larger more commercial projects. There has been greater interest in community solar farms which the ordinance does not address. It was proposed that if a solar company buys land for a solar farm they would have to purchase matching acreage for preservation. No agreement has been made to date. The Planning Board does intend to amend the current solar farm ordinance.

**Sustainable Kingwood**

Congratulations to Mara Tippett for pulling the large amount of data together which was necessary for the Bronze level application process. The Sustainable group is beginning to look forward to additional opportunities and Actions in the coming year.

**Luxfer**

Requires continued follow-up

**Penn East Pipeline Update:**
No Changes at this time. Waiting to see if Supreme Court will hear the Penn East case.

Adjournment
It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Mara Tippett, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:55PM.

All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.

Respectfully submitted by,
Michele Tipton-Walters
Secretary