

The regular meeting of the Delaware Township Environmental Commission was held on the noted date, in the Delaware Township Municipal Building, 570 Rosemont Ringoes Road (County Route 604), Sergeantsville, New Jersey. Chair Szwed opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

STATEMENT

Chair Szwed read a statement noting that the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been satisfied. Notice of this meeting was properly transmitted to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Trenton Times, and Star Ledger, posted on the Delaware Township bulletin board, posted on the Township website, and on file at Town Hall, all on January 21, 2021, revised on February 25, 2021.

**Roll Call**

Present: Regular Members: John Kafarski, Kathy Katz, Kathy Klink, Roger Locandro, Susan Lockwood, Mary Anne Royal, Tony Szwed

Alternates: ~~Donna Dahringer~~, Alternate I, ~~Linda Bradway~~, Alternate II

Advisors: ~~Rich Mongelli~~, Deb Polay, ~~Zack Burger~~, Karen Peters

Absent: shown by strikethroughs

It was noted Alternate II, Linda Bradway had turned in her resignation. Member Klink made a motion to recommend that Deb Polay become Alternate II. Member Royal seconded the motion that was adopted by voice vote. The recommendation will be forwarded to Township Committee.

**Minutes:** January 20, 2021

The minutes of the noted meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Member Katz made a motion to approve the minutes for discussion. Member Kafarski seconded the motion. The minutes were discussed, and changes were made including typographical errors. Said motion was approved by voice vote, with an abstention by Member Locandro.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Site Inspection Committee – K. Klink, K Katz

No pending applications

Clean Communities – K. Klink

- Towpath Trek, March 20, 2021, 8:15 to 11:30 a.m., meet at Bull’s Island

Member Klink reported that there will be staggered sign up times with pod groups of six to eight people. The system used for the Delaware Clean Up is the model being utilized for this clean-up. Member Klink noted that groups are delivered via bus to various locations along the towpath and then walk back to Bull’s Island.

Recycling – K. Klink

Member Klink introduced an idea to ask residents that scrap metal to turn in their invoices into the Township for the tonnage report. Members agreed with the idea, information will be made ready for the next newsletter.

Open Space Committee – K. Katz

Member Lockwood reported for Member Katz, who was unable to attend the Open Space Committee meeting. Member Lockwood noted that Katherine Fullerton has left her position as the Open Space Coordinator. It was noted that there will be an advertisement for a new coordinator.

Member Lockwood reported that Ms. Fullerton will finish the Lee Lau property project, which is very close to completion. Member Lockwood noted that the Curtis Farm has been approved by State and County entities and should close soon.

Member Lockwood reported on the Yerk property that is located on Route 523. It was noted that the property is only twelve acres and that the owners are asking for a higher price than has been the standard in recent months and years. She noted that the property owners are willing to wait and see what progress may be made.

Member Lockwood discussed the Costible property on Lambertville Headquarters Road which may be in a very preliminary phase of discussion.

Member Lockwood also discussed the Recreation Element of the Master Plan. She noted that the Element has been finished and approved by Township Committee. It was also noted that this update is needed for Dilts Park and its future development and future development of other Township-owned Open Space areas. It was discussed that there should be a committee developed for this plan. This plan should be developed by a Committee that represents various Boards, Commissions, and Committees. The last comment was related to the Farm Plan which also needs to be updated, as required by the Department of Agriculture.

#### Planning Board – K. Katz

No February meeting

#### Easement Monitoring – M. Royal

Member Royal stated that no on-site visits can occur right now due to the snow cover. It was noted that the Committee working on these easements will meet in March to discuss the process, moving forward.

#### Schools – K. Klink

Nothing new until extracurricular activities are allowed.

#### Grants – M. Royal, D. Polay

Member Royal reported that she will continue working on the NEEF grant. She noted that the idea for this grant is for a swale project at Dilts to prevent wash-out of the walking trail. It was noted that John Thomas, a resident, will provide landscape review.

#### Website – J. Kafarski

Member Kafarski stated that he is waiting for bios from the newest members. He also noted that there should be a discussion about a quarterly topic for April, May, and June. It was noted that last year's topic at this time was entitled "threats from pests". He noted that the information from last year could be recycled with new information added.

Member Kafarski stated that he feels that the website manager has been more responsive, more timely, and more accurate related to the maintenance of the EC website. Member Kafarski stated that he is pleased with this added responsiveness. Member Kafarski stated that the website manager has done some new things that were not within last year's scope.

Member Katz stated that there is a date for the Free Tree Giveaway but that the date seems to be out of sequence on the list of Scheduled Events. Secretary Klink will work on correcting the list.

#### Penn East Pipeline – S. Lockwood

Member Lockwood stated that the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to take the eminent domain case filed by Penn East. The case was summarized. It was noted that NJ filed against Penn East by declaring that

eminent domain cannot be used for the taking of State-owned lands, such as those preservations involving farmlands and open space. It was noted that the Federal court upheld this decision. Further noted, the US Supreme Court has decided to hear this case. It was noted that arguments from Penn East are to be submitted by March 1; NJ State arguments are to be submitted by March 31. It was further noted that oral arguments will happen in April.

There was a discussion about air monitors that could be put into place to determine the exhaust that is being regularly released from the compression station at Texas Eastern, at the eastern edge of the Township.

#### Stormwater Management – S. Lockwood

Member Lockwood noted that NJ DEP has adopted new stormwater rules that will go into effect March 2, 2021. It was noted that approved provisions of the stormwater ordinance were drafted by the Township Engineer. It was noted that one of the newer goals is about newly developed detention basins that will follow green infrastructure infiltration procedures. It was noted that the green infrastructure policies seem to be better adapted to concerns about contaminants and pollution concentrations.

#### Projects – Chair Szwed

There was a discussion about the proposed solar project that was first discussed in early 2020. It was noted that the discussion was suspended due to the pandemic. Member Klink stated that information was given to the school as the school is contemplating a solar project. She further noted that there should be further information for the next meeting.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- a. Sign up for participation dates – please check your calendars

#### NEW BUSINESS

- a. Oversight on Dilts Park

Chair Szwed stated his opinion that there should be a committee developed from many stakeholders concerning oversight of development at Dilts Park. It was noted that this idea will be passed along to the Recreation Committee.

- b. Blue Bird Talk

Members decided to start the March 17 meeting at 6:30 and have the Blue Bird presentation at 7:30 p.m. It was recommended that any persons attending live should reserve a spot.

There was a discussion about changing the Annual Notice Resolution to reflect the possibility of presentations throughout the year. The Commission decided that such a change should be made to the Annual Notice Resolution that in the event of a presentation, the meetings will start at 6:30 to be followed by presentations at 7:30.

Motion to amend: Katz

Second: Lockwood

#### **Roll Call Vote**

Aye: Kafarski, Katz, Klink, Locandro, Lockwood, Royal, Szwed

Concurs: Polay

Nay: None

Absent: Dahringer

- c. Bee Talk

Chair Szwed stated that he had met with a member of the Northwest Bee Keeping Association. Chair Szwed stated that he will get information and verify a date and time. There was a discussion about the local Chapter of the New Jersey Bee Keepers Association. Member Polay stated that she has a beekeeper

from this group who has set up a hive on her property. It was decided that there should be a comparison between the two groups. It was also noted that there could be a follow-up discussion about planting a pollinator garden which could also be placed in the next newsletter.

d. Site Review – Board of Adjustment application

Switzler, Block 55, Lot 2, 34 Sandy Ridge Road

Secretary Klink reported that Zoning Ordinance sections, 230-97D(8)(9), apply to site plan review by the Environmental Commission, with specific review done by the Environmental Commission per 230-70. Ms. Klink reported that the Zoning Ordinance is online and can be found on the Township home web page, at the bottom, look for the box “CODES”.

e. Well testing results

Member Katz stated that information about this year’s well testing will be sent out soon.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

There were no comments or questions from the public.

MEETING OPENED TO THE COMMISSION FOR COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

Member Lockwood reported that the Governor signed a bill into effect concerning ordinance changes that need to be made related to climate change. It was noted that the proposed regulations are for use at the State level and seem to be more applied to wetlands.

Member Katz reported that Raritan Headwaters is planning some webinars on the topic of climate change. She noted that she will pass along more detailed information as it is developed.

NEXT MEETING, 6:30 p.m.: March 17, 2021; 7:30 for blue bird presentation

The Environmental Commission will next meet as noted above.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:35 p.m.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously carried to adjourn at the noted time.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen E. Klink, Secretary

Schedule of Events

2021 Towpath Trek, March 20, K. Klink

2020 – March 21, cancelled due to covid-19

2019 – 34 adults, 5 children; 44 bags trash, 49 bags recycling, 2 bags scrap metal  
2 metal posts, 1 desk, construction cone, 2 each – air mattress, blow-up raft  
1 mail box in concreted milk can

2018 – 16 adults, 3 children; 15 bags trash, 10 bags recycling (no plastic)  
1 steel sign post, 1 metal pole, 1 muffler, 2 rolls of wire

2021 – Tree Recovery Campaign – Wednesday, April 28, 3:30 to 6:30 pm, DPW Garage,  
K. Klink,

2020 – 1000 free trees, June 2; Klink, Bradway, Szwed (gone in about an hour!)

2019 – 750 trees, K. Klink, Alan Scott, MaryAnne Royal, Tony Szwed

2021 Waterway Clean Up, April 17 – K. Klink –

2020 – April 18 event cancelled due to covid-19

2019 – 16 participants, 7 bags trash, 10 bags recycling, 1 stove, 2 rugs, 1 tire, 1 tarp

2018 – 12 participants; 6 bags of trash; 4 bags recycling; 4 pipes;

1 rusted cart (like a hand truck) with 2 wheels; 3 sign/fence posts

2021 Clean Up Days, April 24, June 19, October 16

2020 - No April Clean-Up – covid-19

June 20 – NO EC volunteers – 72 permits, 3 DPW employees, no residents out of vehicles

October 17 – No EC volunteers – 55 permits, 3 DPW employees, no residents out of vehicles

2019 – April 27 – 53 permits; J.Kafarski, R. Mongelli

June 15 – 33 permits; Mongelli Family – Rich, Grace, John

October 19 – 43 permits, R. Locandro

2021 Shredder Days, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. – May 22 and September 25

2020 – June 27, K. Klink, K. Katz – 102 participants

2019 - May 18, K.Klink – 43 participants; May, 2018 – 48 participants; May, 2017 – 68

2019 - September 14, K.Klink – 62 participants, September 2018 – 46; September 2017 - 47

2021 River Clean Up, September 20, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; six registration locations, K. Klink,

2020 – 100 +

2019 – 108 participants; 13.5 miles along river; 48 bags trash; 11 bags recycling; 4 bags scrap; 5 bags bulky material

2018 – 90 participants; 53 bags of trash; 35 bags recycling; 1 bag scrap recycling

2021 March on Litter – October 9, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., Dilts Park

K.Klink

2019 – 99 participants, 14.85 miles; 16 bags trash; 24 bags recycling; 4 tires

2018 – 58 participants; 11.1 miles cleaned; 18 bags trash; 6 bags recycling; 1 tire

2017 – 80 participants; 18 bags of trash, 6 bags recycling, 6 tires, 1 TV, 1 table

2019 White Oak Trail Day, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. , Meet on Quarry Road (November 7 or 21)

K. Klink – members Alan Scott, John Kafarski and Wyatt, Kathy Katz, Susan Lockwood, Tony Szwed; Also – Bob Hornby, Sam Davis, Dale Hazard

2021 Planning Board inspection committee for pending applications

Also to be used for Easement Monitoring, per item #3, Delaware Township Planning Board Annual Meeting Notice Resolution for 2021

January 17	February 14	March 14
April 18	May 16	June 13
July – none, NO Aug. PB mtg	August 15	September 12
October 17	November 14	December 12

## Delaware Township Well Water Testing 2020

Each year, Delaware Township partners with Raritan Headwaters (RHA) to hold a water testing event at the Municipal Building enabling residents the opportunity to test their drinking water conveniently and affordably for a variety of contaminants. Last year, to minimize the length of time residents were physically in Town Hall, the Environmental Commission requested that residents pre-order their well water test kits via email. Delaware Township Environmental Commission Secretary, Kathy Klink, and Environmental Commission member, Kathy Katz, assisted residents and distributed test kits on designated days. In total, 31 households participated and returned water samples for testing by a state-certified laboratory.



The following chart is a summary of data collected from these 31 wells on Primary Contaminants of Concern:

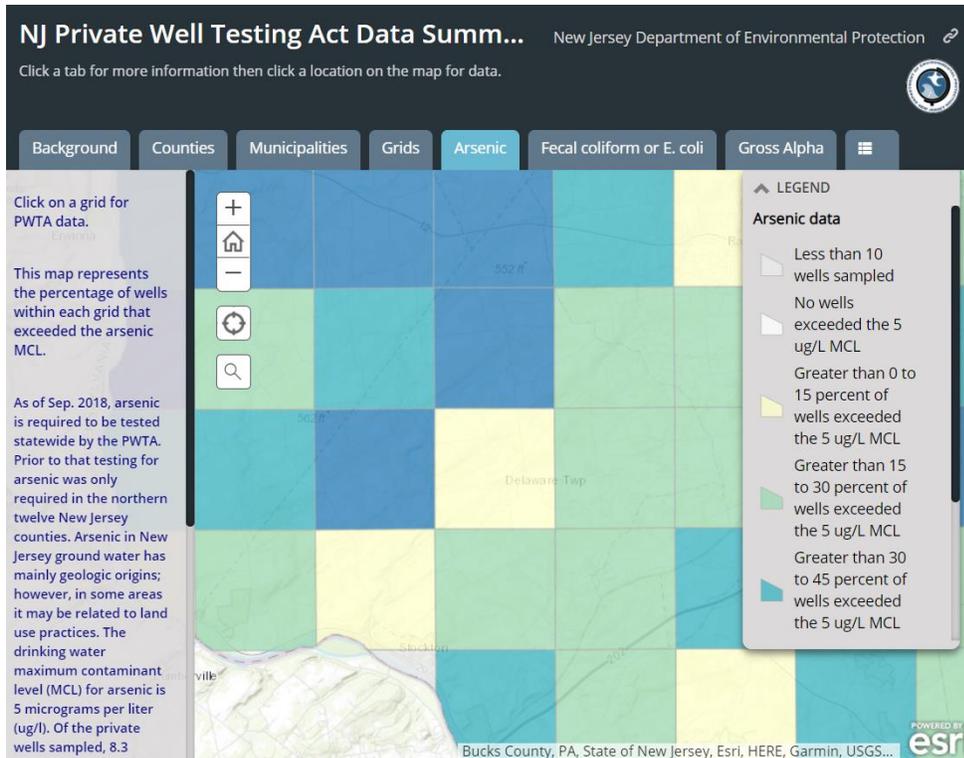
Contaminant	# wells tested in 2020	Limit or MCL*	Range of results (ND=Non Detect)	# wells exceeding MCL
Coliform bacteria	31	Absent	Absent-Present	9 coliform present
Nitrate	31	10 mg/L	ND - 5.48 mg/L	0
Lead	11	15 ppb	0.2 - 10.2 ppb	0
Radon	10	2,000 pCi/L**	291.4 - 3,940 pCi/L	5
Gross Alpha	6	15 pCi/L	0.5 - 7.7 pCi/L	0
Arsenic	17	5 ppb	0.7 - 6.6 ppb	3
E.coli	31	Absent	Absent	0

\* Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). The maximum level of a contaminant which is permitted in public water supplies. Maximum contaminant levels are specified in the Primary Drinking Water Standards set by EPA for contaminants that affect the safety of public drinking water.

\*\* There is no standard set in NJ for radon in water. Standards set in other states in our region are used as guidelines. The most protective of these standards is 2,000 pCi/L in New Hampshire. There are approximately 1,885 private wells in Delaware Township. Under the New Jersey Private Well Testing Act (PwTA) which was signed into law in 2001, wells must be tested for an array of contaminants upon transfer of ownership or if there is a rental on the property.

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection collects and publishes data on the results of the testing which may be explored at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dsr/pwta/>. In Delaware Township, 566 wells have been tested as mandated under the PWTA between 2002 and 2018. The following table summarizes available data for Delaware Township on the percent of exceedances for individual contaminants including the number of wells tested under PWTA.

Nitrate	0.2% (566 wells sampled)
Arsenic	21.6% (566 wells sampled)
Iron	16.6% (566 wells sampled)
Manganese	18.4% (566 wells sampled)
Gross Alpha*	12.1% (496 wells sampled)
VOC	0.4% (566 wells sampled)
Fecal coliform or E. coli	3.9% (566 wells sampled)
pH	21.9% (566 wells sampled)



Private well owners are responsible for the safety of their water and regular testing is the only way to know for certain that the water is safe to drink. Based on available data and current public health guidelines, residents of Delaware Township are encouraged to test their wells annually for coliform bacteria and nitrates. Arsenic contamination of private wells is common in the Township and it is best to test every 3-5 years or more frequently if a homeowner is monitoring an arsenic removal treatment system.

Those residents living in older homes, built before 1987 are at greater risk of lead exposure from older pipes and solder and should test for lead in their water every 5 years.

At least one test for radon and gross alpha are also highly recommended to ensure that members of your household are not exposed to these naturally occurring carcinogens.

Furthermore, residents can protect their water supply by carefully managing activities on their property and near the well. This includes keeping hazardous chemicals out of septic systems, pumping their septic system every 3 years, and limiting the application of fertilizers to lawns and gardens.

The Environmental Commission is planning on holding the Community Well Testing Event again this fall. Details on how to purchase well test kits will be posted on the Township's website and in the newsletter.