

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; supported by the ZOOM platform for virtual meetings. 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 December 23, 2022.

Roll Call

Present: Regular Members: John Kafarski, Kathy Katz, Kathy Klink, Roger Locandro, Susan Lockwood (8:31 p.m.), Mary Anne Royal, Tony Szwed
Alternates: Deb Polay, Alternate I, Zack Burger, Alternate II
Advisors: ~~Rich Mongelli~~, ~~Karen Peters~~, Josh Goldman
Absent: shown by strikethroughs

Reorganization

It was noted that the Township Committee selects Chair for the Environmental Commission and this year's Chair is Tony Szwed.

Vice Chair

Member Klink made a motion to nominate Member Katz as Vice Chair. Member Kafarski seconded the motion. Member Klink made a motion to close nominations which was seconded by Member Kafarski. By voice vote, Member Katz was elected Vice Chair, with her abstention.

Annual Notice Resolution

It was noted that there are no conflicts with the dates on the third Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. Member Locandro made a motion to adopt the resolution, which was seconded by Member Katz and adopted by voice vote.

Minutes: December 15, 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 Polay seconded the motion. The minutes were discussed. Said motion was approved by voice vote, with no abstentions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Site Inspection Committee – K. Klink, K. Katz
No applications

Clean Communities – K. Klink (Clean Communities Coordinator)
Nothing to report, 2020 list to be compiled
First activity is Towpath Trek, March 26, 2022, 8:30 a.m., Bull's Island.

Member Klink reported that the Locktown Stone Church is considering a clean up in the area of the church, to help fund-raise and raise awareness about the Church.

Recycling – K. Klink (Recycling Coordinator)

Member Klink reported that the cardboard dumpster is continuously full. It has been suggested that the Township research a compactor. It was noted that the issue with this idea is that it would only be available when the DPW is present.

Member Klink stated that she will discuss the issue with the DPW Supervisor, Jay Trstensky. It was noted that the initial idea is to have an extra dumpster on hand for the overflow. Member Klink noted that any money for this would be funded by the Recycling Trust Fund.

Open Space Committee – K. Katz

Member Katz reported that the committee met on January 18, 2022. She noted that there are no new applications at this time. It was noted that since Penn East is “dead in the water”, the application for the Kohler farm can now be considered by the SADC. Member Katz noted that the AG advisory committee will be working with the Open Space committee to develop a flyer to educate the public about preservation. She noted that the idea is to start with a mailing and then see if the information can be done with an in-person meeting.

Member Katz noted that the Farmland Preservation Element will be updated to be included in the Master Plan reexamination report.

Planning Board – K. Katz

Member Katz reported that there was no January meeting, that the Board will meet in February for reorganization.

Easement Monitoring – M. Royal

Member Royal reported that the Easement Monitoring letter has been presented to Township Committee for the February agenda.

Schools – K. Klink

Nothing, until Student Group is reestablished.

Member Klink reported that the DT School Green Team is planning an Earth Day Celebration on April 14, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Grants – M. Royal, D. Polay

Member Klink reported that the Township, in concert with Kingwood Township EC and the D&R Canal State Park was awarded a LDWS Grant to re-naturalize the former campground at Bull’s Island. LDWS represents the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic - River Management Council

Website – J. Kafarski

Member Kafarski reported that there is not much new. He noted that per the website managers, any pictures to be posted would have to be on an outside link. He did note that the website will give us four photos that can be rotated out.

It was decided that the first Quarterly Topic will be the NJ State Ban the Bag program.

Secretary Klink reported that the website managers have installed a link called “Recycling Tips”.

Member Kafarski stated that the website is very clean.

Stormwater Management – S. Lockwood

Member Lockwood reported that the committee is being established: Gayle Conover, Gary Hinesley, Vince Mazzei, Valerie Tucci, Seth Buchanan. She stated that the times or days are still undecided.

Projects – Chair Szwed

Member Katz reported that the question about the park planner was asked and that the hope is that someone will be hired soon. She further noted that a Master Plan for the park might not be developed until later in the year.

- NEEF grant – possible meadow or pollinator gardens

There was a discussion about applying for such a grant, that could be up to \$50,000.00. It was noted that any such plan would have to be made for areas that are out of the park development and out of the hay area.

Member Katz noted that the Township Liaison should communicate with the Township Committee about how to move forward to maximize such an application. It was further discussed that there should be coordination between all committees before any grants are done.

It was noted that one question about the NEEF grant, or a similar type of grant, centers around location. The question arose that such a grant could be used for small projects on various Township properties instead one big one. It was noted that it might be easier to do smaller areas, such as the Police HQ, School Meadow Trail, and Dilts.

Member Katz noted that she took a walk at Dilts Park and noticed a grass area on a slope that abuts Buchanan Road. She noted that it seems to be an old trail through a field with a drainage creek at the base of the hill. She noted that it is near the bridge that is to be restored as a boy scout project. She further noted that this project could be a riparian corridor project with wetlands plants and shrubs.

Member Royal noted that the first step in this NEEF grant is to submit a detailed letter of intent, which may or may not result in obtaining a grant. She noted that if the letter of intent is accepted, there would be an invitation to apply for the grant.

Member Royal noted that the park planner should be looking at all Township-owned properties. She opined that the EC should focus on high visibility projects.

Member Katz noted that the boy scout project, for the bridge renovation at Dilts, is seeking funding through a go fund me account. She emphasized that an EC project could be a follow-up, focusing on the run-off that drains into a c-1 water body. She noted that the emphasis can be on improving stream quality. She also noted that an EC project could be tied to the boy scout project, and include restoration of a perimeter trail.

Member Royal agreed that such a project could be used for education and helping residents at their own properties. She noted that the information can be quantified by keeping a tally of how many backyards qualify.

Member Katz noted that this has been a good discussion. She suggested that when the grant is ready, it should be shared with the Rec Commission and the Township Committee. Member Royal noted that the letter of intent is due February 17.

Member Katz stated that she feels the Rec Comm will be supportive. She further noted that she cannot foresee that any park buildings or fields would go in this area by the c-1 creek, as no development can go within the buffer.

There was further discussion about communication with the Rec Commission and the Township Committee. Member Locandro made a motion to write the letter of intent for the NEEF grant and then submit it, then notify the Rec Commission and the Township Committee. He amended the motion to state that the intent is for a pollinator garden on the hillside as described by Member Katz. Member Kafarski seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

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

Concurs: Burger

Nay: None

Absent: Lockwood

- **Community Garden**

It was noted that there were nine respondents to the Community Garden survey. Members noted that of the responses, 44% were interested in having the Garden at Dilts Park. It was noted that whatever location is chosen, there has to be water access.

There was further discussion about the Garden and how to start the beds.

Member Locandro stated that he feels this idea is counter to people who have created their own farmstead. He noted that from his experience people have moved to the Township to try their hand at all of this on their own. He also noted that creating the Garden could cost a lot of money for insurance and water. He further noted that rules would have to be created.

Members agreed that if the results were more statistically significant, this could be a worthy project.

Member Katz stated that the idea could be presented to the park planner and possibly be part of the discussion for the master plan for the park and Township-owned lands. Chair Szwed agreed that this subject can be moved to the planning stage of the park.

Member Burger stated that one goal of the project is to enable people to create food for themselves. He also stated education is a key component of a Community Garden.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Sign up for participation dates – please check your calendars
- b. New Schedule for 2022

- **2022 Budget**

Members discussed a budget for the year, with amounts for various line items.

Member Locandro moved proposed budget, which was seconded by Member Lockwood.

Roll Call Vote

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

Concurs: Polay, Burger

Nay: None

Absent: None

The 2022 Budget proposal follows the minutes.

- **Membership Dues: ANJEC - \$375.00; Raritan Headwaters Association - \$350.00**

Member Locandro made a motion to approve payment for both of these memberships. Member Kafarski seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

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

Concurs: Polay, Burger

Nay: None

Absent: None

- Raritan Headwaters Association sponsorship - \$300.00

Member Katz made a motion to sponsor the Raritan Headwaters Association Stream Clean Up. It was noted this money can come out of Clean Communities money. Member Locandro seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

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

Concurs: Polay, Burger

Nay: None

Absent: None

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Projects, not noted above - none
- b. 2022 meeting dates – no conflicts with any of the third Wednesdays

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 noted that the next Newsletter is being prepared. She noted that Member Polay has taken over the EC events. It was decided that the Quarter 1 topic will be Ban the Bag. Member Klink stated she will try to get information on that.

Member Lockwood stated that a planner has been chosen for to plan for the Township properties.

Member Kafarski stated that we should close the discussion on the community garden at this time.

Member Klink reported that the Township Building will be reopened to the public and for meetings on January 31, 2022.

NEXT MEETING: February 16, 2022

The Environmental Commission will next meet on the noted date at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:55 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen E. Klink, Secretary

**** NOTE: The White Oak Trail is monitored by the DT Environmental Commission. It was established by the DT EC via a Memorandum of Agreement with the State of NJ. Until 2019, there has been no park or trail budget to assist in the maintenance of the trail or removal of hazardous trees. The proposed budget reflects the cost of ongoing maintenance. It should also be noted that there have been volunteer hours dedicated to the maintenance of the trail, for June 16, 2021, EC meeting held at Bull's Island**

8 members present, trail work followed the meeting

6 hours

- \$28.54 per hour \$171.21

This tally does not represent girl scout and boy scout hours.

Schedule of Events

2022 Towpath Trek, March 19, K. Klink

2021 Towpath Trek - 28 adults, 8 children; 26 bags trash, 12 bags recycling; bike frame, chair frame, inflatable boat, hubcaps, tire, railroad car handle

2020 – March 21 – cancelled, 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 can2018 – 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

2022 Waterway Clean Up, April 23, K. Klink

K. Klink serves as site coordinator for this RHA site, #33

2021 Waterway Clean Up - 20 participants, about 3 miles; 4 bags trash, 6 bags recyclables, some metal

2020 – 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

2022 Tree Recovery Campaign - TBD

2021 – 1000 free trees, K. Klink, K. Katz, M. Royal, D. Polay,

2020 – 1000 free trees, gone in an hour! K. Klink, Linda Bradway, Maria, Tony Szwed

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

2022 Household Clean Up Days

April 30, 2022

June 18, 2022

October 15, 2022

2021 Household Clean Up Days

April 24, 2021, 52 permits sold, 3 DPW employees, J. Kafarski

June 19, 2021, 43 permits sold, 2 DPW employees

October 16, 2021, 32 permits sold, 2 DPW employees

2020 Household Clean Up Days (NO EC volunteers)

No April Clean-Up – covid-19

June 20 – 72 permits, 3 DPW employees, residents remain in vehicles

October 17 – 33 permits sold – 3 DPW employees, residents remain in 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

2022 Shredder Days, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. (participants counted as vehicles)

May 14, 2022, K. Klink

September 24, 2022, K. Klink

2021 Shredder Days – May 22, 2021, 61 participants, September 25, 2021

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

2022 Delaware River Clean Up, September 17, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., K. Klink

Meet at Bull's Island or Kingwood Boat Launch - K. Klink

2021 – 1xx participants

2020 - 125 participants; 31 miles along river, 93 bags trash; 24 bags recycling; 30 tires, misc.

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

2022 March on Litter – October 8, ch on Litter – October 9, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.; K.Klink

2021 – 128 participants, 19.2 miles; 18 bags trash; 7 bags recycling; two pipes, one tire, etc.

2020 - 36 participants, 23.3 miles; 19 bags trash; 17.25 bags recycling; car bumper/muffler

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

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

2022 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, #2022-01.

January 9	February 13	March 13
April 24	May 15	June 12
July - none	August 14	September 18
October 16	November 13	December 18