

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 January 21, 2020, updated on February 18, 2021.

Roll Call

Present: Regular Members: John Kafarski, Kathy Katz, Kathy Klink, Roger Locandro, Susan Lockwood (7:38 pm), Mary Anne Royal, Tony Szwed
Alternates: ~~Donna Dahringer~~, Alternate I, Deb Polay, Alternate II (7:35 pm)
Advisors: ~~Rich Mongelli~~, Zack Burger, ~~Karen Peters~~, Josh Goldman
Absent: shown by strikethroughs

Members Klink, Locandro and Lockwood agreed to term extensions, to end in 2024

Minutes: October 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 abstentions by Members Locandro and Royal.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Clean Communities – K. Klink

Member Klink reported that there was a Girl Scout clean up on Lower Creek Road. She noted that three troops were in attendance with 12 girls and six adults. Recovered: 9 bags of recycling, 6 bags of trash, 1 tire, 1 chamber pot, 1 roll of fencing, 1 tarp, and 1 metal post. Member Klink noted that this area has been cleaned up a number of times. It was reported to her that this location may have been the trash heap for the old Colligan's Stockton Inn of many, many years ago.

Recycling – K. Klink

Member Klink reported that the last Household Clean Up Day for 2021 was on November 13. It was noted that 32 permits were sold. It was also noted that next year's notice has to have a notation about residents being responsible for the removal of what they bring in. It was noted that due to Covid-19, residents were asked to stay in their vehicles. It is hoped that these restrictions will be further lifted in 2022.

Open Space Committee – K. Katz

Member Katz reported that the Committee met on Monday, November 15. She stated that there are no new applications. She noted that two interviews were conducted for the Open Space Coordinator and stated that the Township Committee should decide in December. It was noted that the NJ Attorney General has stated that the SADC will be unable to preserve any properties within the pipeline route. It was noted that the Kohler property, on Lambertville Headquarters Road, is in the pipeline right of way.

Member Katz reported that the Township received \$500,000 Green Acres funding, that could be used for properties that are not identified through the SADC. Member Katz reported that Hunterdon County has identified three properties that could be preserved with this Green acres money, which total \$618,000. Those properties are as follows Pavlica – 20 acres; Buggliati - 45.5 acres; Toll Brothers - 308 acres. Other properties were also identified: Eugene Tibbens, Prallsvill Mill, 4.2 acres; Costabile – 35 acres; Linda Siecke, unknown number of acres.

Member Locandro asked about Blue Acres money. It was discussed at the Open Space meeting that this money may be used for the buyouts of three properties along the Wickecheoke. It was noted that these buyouts are awaiting FEMA approval as well. It was noted that Risk Management Funding of the NJ State Police is a program used for FEMA buyouts; and that NJCF has also been helpful with this process.

Planning Board – K. Katz

No new applications

Member Katz reported that the Master plan subcommittee is moving forward to hire the Board Planner to work on the Reexamination of the Master Plan. She noted that the Board Planner will incorporate the Census information, State and County requirements, any other policy changes, and update the farmland preservation element.

Easement Monitoring – M. Royal

Member Royal stated that the next goal of this committee is to finetune a final draft of an information pamphlet. She also noted that the Committee spent time looking at the ordinances.

Schools – K. Klink

Nothing, until student group is reestablished

Member Klink reported that the DT School Green Team will next meet on November 30, 2021. She stated that this group is planning an Earth Day Green Fair and that the EC is represented.

Grants – M. Royal, D. Polay

Member Royal stated that this committee is trying to find the best grants to seek for the Environmental Commission. She noted that members are good at writing grants. She noted that the committee has looked at NEEF grants, ANJEC grants, and other grants. She noted that Rutgers has a funding subcommittee that can be researched.

Member Klink stated any grants received by the EC that are meant for the school have been forwarded to the school.

Website – J. Kafarski

Member Kafarski stated that the Quarterly Topic for the fourth quarter needs filling. Member Klink reported that the new web organization is very prompt at filling orders for postings.

Penn East Pipeline – S. Lockwood

Member Lockwood stated that even though the pipeline has been vacated, there is still concern about the FERC certificate that is still valid and could be valid until 2024. She stated that this is the concern and appears to be the reasons that the Attorney General will not move on farmland preservation for properties within the pipeline route.

Stormwater Management – S. Lockwood

Member Lockwood noted that there has been a public request for this committee to be reconstituted. She noted that the Township Committee is accepting volunteers. Member Goldman stated that he was asked and that he accepted. He also stated that he will represent the EC, if Member Lockwood is not a member of this committee. Member Lockwood stated that she has been asked to chair the committee and that she will probably agree.

Projects – Chair Szwed

Chair Szwed stated that fund raising projects should be added for 2022. He noted that the bluebird boxes could be started up again.

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Easements

There was a discussion about resident complaints resulting from TS Ida damage. The Environmental Commission has been asked directly to address some of these issues. There was a discussion about the language found in some of the easement agreements. It was noted that there is no language for which the EC can make recommendations about maintenance. Member Lockwood stated that the interpretation is between the Township Committee and its attorney. Member Lockwood noted that the involvement of the Environmental Commission concerns the monitoring of easements.

Member Lockwood works for NJ DEP. She noted that the easement language is set by the state, languages changes must be made there.

Member Royal stated that the Township has two versions of easements, one for conservation and/or conservation and drainage; and one for natural resources. She noted that the discussion about easement maintenance came from two residents, via letters, addressed to the EC, not to the Township Committee.

Member Lockwood noted that emergency work will be allowed to proceed.

Member Royal stated that the area near Sandbrook HQ Road and Britton Road, near Route 523, is an area of concern. Member Lockwood noted that the Township has been in contact with the Township Engineer. Member Lockwood noted that Lower Creek Road is the first concern, followed by the Sand Brook area. She noted that there are long term fixes and short-term fixes. Chair Szwed stated that there are different views of how each of these issues is being addressed.

Member Royal stated that the plan of the Easement Monitoring Committee is to draft a letter to return to easement monitoring. She stated that this Committee is waiting to draft this letter until there is a response from the Township Committee about how to proceed. She noted that it is the hope of this committee to have a letter of guidance for verbiage when viewing easements. It was noted that the Committee will wait for a response from the Township Committee and/or the Township Attorney.

- Old Business - 2021 Budget

The Commission reviewed monies remaining in the EC budget. After discussion, the Commission agreed to buy more trees for Dilts and to get the White Oak Trail brush hogged one last time.

There was a discussion about how a budget is approved and how it affects membership dues, etc. Secretary Klink noted that all vouchers are submitted as soon as they are approved by EC; and are paid when the Township Committee adopts the budget.

There was a discussion about the amount of money currently available. It was noted that \$1,250 could be allocated for brush hogging and that \$300.00 could be allocated for trees at Dilts. Chair Szwed asked for comments. Member Goldman stated that this is a good use of the remaining funds. Member Katz asked what the day rate is for brush-hogging, to which the response is that it would be investigated, but that up to \$1,250 could be set aside for this. Member Katz stated that she was on the trail in September and that it is overgrown. She noted that the EC should be concerned with trail safety.

There was a discussion about the trees at Dilts and working with the park planner for a good idea on how to place activities or trees. It was noted by some members that trees could be placed that would not interfere with future proposed activities. Member Locandro stated that the green ash around the playground were never treated, so those trees are gone.

Member Klink made a motion to approve \$1,250.00 for as much brush hogging as can be done on the White Oak Trail. Member Royal seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

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

Concurs: Polay

Nay: None

Absent: Dahringer

Member Kafarski made a motion to spend up to \$300.00 for trees at Dilts Park. Member Lockwood seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

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

Concurs: Polay

Nay: None

Absent: Dahringer

- NJ DEP investigation – Schneider property on Route 523

Member Klink reported that Hunterdon County Solid Waste invited the Environmental Commission to be present for a joint inspection by NJ DEP and Hunterdon County Solid Waste of this property. Member Klink reported that she attended and that there is much trash and debris on the site as well as multiple containers of fluids. Part of the inspection was to identify the fluids found in these containers.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

There were no comments or questions from the public. No one was present

MEETING OPENED TO THE COMMISSION FOR COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

There were no further comments from members of the Commission.

It was noted that the School is moving forward with installing solar panels at the school. The EC discussed reviewing the idea of solar panels at Dilts Park. It was noted that this might be part of a discussion with the park planner.

NEXT MEETING: December 15

The Environmental Commission will next meet on the noted date at 7:30 p.m. It was suggested that the EC can honor former secretary Gloria Schellhorn with a cookie exchange.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:55 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, Deb and Rick Polay

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 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 Waterway Clean Up, April 17, K. Klink, Deb and Rick Polay

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

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

2021 – Tree Recovery Campaign – distribute 1000 free trees, bundles of 5, April 28

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

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

2021 Shredder Days, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. (participants counted as vehicles)

May 22, 2021, K. Klink, 61 participants

September 25, 2021, K. Klink,

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 18, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; meet at Bull's Island or Kingwood Boat Launch - K. Klink

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

2021 March on Litter – October 9, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.; K.Klink

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

2020 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, #2020-01.

January 12 – Habig, for PB, Block 58, Lot 4.01	February 16	March 15
April 19	May 17	June 14
July 12	August 16	September 13
October 18	November 15	December 13