



Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2024

The regular meeting of the Delaware Township Environmental Commission was held on the noted date in the Delaware Township Municipal Building, 570 Rosemont Ringoes Rd. (County Road 604), Sergeantsville, New Jersey; Chair Kafarski opened the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

STATEMENT

Chair Kafarski 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 28, 2023.

Roll Call

Present: Regular Members: Diana Garibaldi, John Kafarski, Kathy Katz, Roger Locandro, Susan Lockwood, ~~Karen Peters~~, Mary Anne Royal

Alternates: Kathy Klink, Alternate I; Donna DiMatteo, Alternate II

Advisors: ~~Devin Cornia, Jane Engel, Josh Goldman, Rich Mongelli, Robert Weber~~

Absent: Shown by ~~strikethrough~~

Minutes: Minutes March 20, 2024

The minutes of the noted meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Member Katz made a motion to approve the minutes for discussion. Member Garibaldi seconded the motion. The minutes were discussed and with corrections, were approved by voice vote.

Correspondence: Chair Kafarski noted a correspondence received by Hemlock Arboricultural Consulting regarding their services as it applies to the revised Tier A Stormwater permit.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning Board/Site Inspection - K. Katz

Nothing new to report. They were unable to hold their meeting due to an issue with Zoom.

Clean Communities & Recycling

Nothing new to report. Member Klink is working with the Director of Public Works. Chair Kafarski briefly discussed the household cleanup day scheduled for April 27.

Open Space - S. Lockwood, K. Katz

Member Katz reported there was nothing new for applications. The Open Space Committee was contacted by a property owner on Worman Road who is interesting in farmland preservation. The property is not currently listed on the target farm list, and it would need to get on the list in order to be eligible for preservation. There is leftover money from the Green Acre funding from 2019 that needs to be spent. The committee chair will reach out to the nonprofits to see if there are any projects that the funding could be used toward. There is currently still not an Open Space coordinator. The website sub-committee has begun drafting a flow chart that goes over the steps required for preservation.

Easement Monitoring - K. Katz

Nothing new to report. The planning board resolution notice includes easement monitoring by the Environmental Commission.

Schools – John Kafarski

Chair Kafarski noted that the Earth Day celebration at the school will take place on April 24, from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. The budget approval for next school year is coming up soon. Member DiMatteo brought up issues of transparency with Terracycle. Member Royal suggested inviting Terracycle to make a presentation, which would be informative for the Environmental Commission but also could encourage community interest.

Grants - K. Katz

Member Katz reported that the landing page/website was shared with members of the commission. Feedback provided suggested not including house numbers. Member Katz tried getting photo angles of the parking areas to post. Member Klink mentioned the small cemetery on Pavlica Road and suggested having it marked as a cemetery on the map. Member Katz said she will follow up with Alix Bacon about the cemetery.

The grant committee is meeting next week. The planner should be done soon with the parcel map, and the committee will meet to review the map and the website, as well as getting the QR code up. There was a leftover \$400.00 that needs to be spent, which will be put toward an 18"x24" sign with a QR code that has already been approved by the Township Committee. The location of the sign still needs to be determined and Sustainable Jersey ultimately needs to approve any sign. Member Katz stated that the Flickr account is live, and albums need to be generated which will correspond to the parcels.

Website - J. Kafarski

Chair Kafarski reported that the township cleanup day and preregistration information is posted.

Stormwater Management - S. Lockwood

Member Lockwood reported that there has not been any progress. The township engineer and director of DPW have not yet confirmed a time to meet with the commission.

Projects

Member Garibaldi had no report on the bluebird boxes. She did distribute a sheet showing the Environmental Commission website links and noted that some of the links are broken. Chair Kafarski asked Member Garibaldi if she would be interested in updating the website and the links, to which she agreed. Member Garibaldi also mentioned updating the "Meet the Commission" page. Member Royal suggested doing an "in memoriam" to Tony Szwed on the website, which Member Klink said she would assist with.

Old Business

Lower Wild and Scenic Delaware River - Resolution Update

Chair Kafarski followed up on the letter he sent to the Township Committee. The Committee is allowing Chair Kafarski to coordinate with the attorney. Chair Kafarski is working with Environmental Commission Advisor Jane Engel on the legal aspect of the designation.

Dilts Park Pesticide Spray Application Regulations

Member Garibaldi followed up on working with Member Engel on the meaning of the DEP codes (specifically 7:30-9.13 - Notification: turf or ornamental applications) and the information being on the Township website and posted on Facebook by the mayor. Member Garibaldi consulted with the Director of Public Works on posting signs when spraying takes place. Member Katz suggested asking the Township Committee that the Director of Public Works be responsible for alerting when pesticides are used at the park with information like what type of herbicide is used and posting it on the Township's calendar.

White Oak Trail Maintenance Plan

The secretary reported that she has contacted the state via email and initially had received a quick response. Unfortunately, the line of communication ended after the first response. Member Katz recommended for the secretary to follow up via phone. The goal is to be persistent and hopefully get a response.

Chair Kafarski said the Director of Public Works will facilitate work on the trail twice, around Memorial Day, and has so far been receptive to input from the Environmental Commission.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station- Sub Committee Update

Nothing new to report.

Stormwater Permit Tier A Points System

Nothing new to report.

Dues – ANJEC and RHA

This is still pending the budget approval in May.

March on Litter Coordination Position

Member Klink and Member Katz briefly discussed the future Clean Communities-funded position and what the requirements for the position are. They will continue to coordinate on the position description. Member Royal mentioned keeping track of volunteer hours to validate a request of money to make the March on Litter coordinator a paid position, using Clean Communities funds.

SWAC – Municipal Tonnage Grant Application

Member Klink, SWAC Alternate, will be handling the application.

Guest Speakers for 2024

Chair Kafarski reported that Member Lockwood will be doing a talk titled: *Wetlands and You: Perfect Together* on May 15 at 8:00 p.m. after the next Environmental Commission meeting. A description will be made available on the Township website and Facebook page.

New Business

Township Ordinance 2024-2025 – Stormwater Quality

Chair Kafarski reported that there is a proposed ordinance for tree cutting/replacement from the Township Committee. The Shade Tree Commission is aware of the proposed ordinance and has reviewed it. The Environmental Commission reviewed and discussed the proposed ordinance as well.

Regular Member Position Discussion/Zoom Update

Nothing new to report.

2024 Budget

Chair Kafarski submitted the budget approval request to the Township CFO.

Events

Member Klink mentioned the Raritan Headwaters cleanup is full.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

None

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Alternate DiMatteo asked about whether there was a state program for residents who had to remove their dead ash trees. Member Klink mentioned the State Tree Recovery program that gives out seedlings. Chair Kafarski will get the information for the program up on the Environmental Commission's website.

Member Lockwood asked if the Environmental Commission wanted anything in the next Township newsletter. Chair Kafarski mentioned the June cleanup at the White Oak Trail and will get information to Member Lockwood for the newsletter.

NEXT MEETING: May 15, 2024

The Environmental Commission will next meet on the noted date at 6:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:13 pm

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

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Aron, Secretary