



Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes
May 15, 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 6:34 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 (6:41), Alternate I; Donna DiMatteo, Alternate II

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

Absent: Shown by ~~strikethrough~~

Minutes: Minutes April 17, 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 correspondence received including a letter and book from the Bucks County Audubon Society and the Honey Hollow Watershed Association regarding the biological inventory of the Honey Hollow Watershed in Solebury Township. A price list for the Toadshade Wildflower Farm was also available for review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning Board/Site Inspection - K. Katz

Member Katz reported that the Planning Board attorney was asked about the response to the November, 2021 Environmental Commission memo regarding the easement monitoring, stream corridor and drainage. The response was shared with the members of the Environmental Commission. Member Katz brought up the lack of clarification regarding who is responsible for the different types of easement monitoring. Specifically worded questions should go back to the Planning Board, and Member Katz will relay that information to them.

Clean Communities & Recycling

Member Klink reported that the Raritan Headwaters Stream Cleanup took place. Future financial support from Clean Communities for March on Litter and the Delaware River cleanup events will be requested. Member Klink worked with the Director of Public Works on the tonnage report, which can be amended until June 15.

Open Space - S. Lockwood, K. Katz

Member Katz reported that the Boars Head Road and Kohler properties are still pending. The Open Space Chair did hear from Green Acres and the 2019 funding is at risk of being canceled because it has not been used. The Chair is reaching out to local nonprofits to see if the funding can be applied to help. A homeowner on Worman Road may receive assistance for damage due to Hurricane Ida. Properties on Sandbrook Headquarters Road with historic designations were suggested by Member Royal for Green Acres assistance.

Easement Monitoring - K. Katz

Covered under Planning Board/Site Inspection section.

Schools – John Kafarski

Chair Kafarski noted that he took part in Waste Not Wednesday at the school during the three lunch periods. Member Kafarski noted that the school did not get the recent grant that the Environmental Commission supported, but a future collaboration on other projects is expected. Member Klink reported on the Earth Day celebration that was held at the school and noted next year's theme which is related to light pollution: "Dark Skies." If any members have any astronomy-related ideas, they are encouraged to share.

Member Royal followed up on Terracycle and trying to get them to do a presentation with the Department of Public Works and the community. She also mentioned trying to get a talk on microplastics in the future. Member DiMatteo followed up on Terracycle from the last meeting and noted that there is free Terracycling that can be investigated.

Grants - K. Katz

Member Katz reported that the website design and mapping have been finalized. The final mockup of the sign is going to the sign company for completion. The post card design is still pending, but once it's finalized it will go to the printer. Member Katz would like to get on the June Township Committee meeting agenda to talk about the website and QR code and get permission to install the sign.

Website - J. Kafarski

Chair Kafarski reported that the White Oak Trail cleanup for next month will be posted. New biographies for the website will be collected soon.

Stormwater Management - S. Lockwood

Member Lockwood reported that there still has not been any progress. The Township engineer and Director of Public Works have not been able to finalize a time to meet. A goal for a meeting with the Stormwater Committee is at the Environmental Commission's July meeting.

Chair Kafarski reported that the Township has achieved Tier A status. Points were received for cleanups within the Township, information in The Bridge newsletter and Township recycling initiatives.

Projects

Member Garibald said there was nothing new to report.

Old Business

Lower Wild and Scenic Delaware River - Resolution Update

Chair Kafarski followed up on the meeting he attended. He has been in touch with Jane Engel and Robert McEwan regarding the Township's concerns and to get their support in the designation of the Lockatong, Wickecheoke and Alexauken Creeks as wild and scenic.

Dilts Park Pesticide Spray Application Regulations

Member Garibaldi reported that she sent a letter to Justin Squashic, Director of Public Works, recapping what was discussed last month and what the recommendations were for public alerting before pesticides or herbicides are applied at Dilts Park.

White Oak Trail Maintenance Plan

Chair Kafarski reported that the Director of Public Works is ready to facilitate work on the White Oak Trail whenever the Environmental Commission gives the notice to start.

The secretary reported that she spoke with the State regarding the expired MOA and advised that they are aware of its expiration and are currently working through a years-long backlog of expired MOAs. They are currently prioritizing MOAs that have been expired longest, but they recognize the smaller MOAs that need renewals as well. They've also experienced a lot of staff turnover and their director will be going on maternity leave soon. The secretary was told the EC will receive notification by mail or email that our MOA is in the review process once that happens, which will likely be sometime over the summer. The contact for the EC will be Marlen Dooley at the Deputy Commissioner's Office of the NJDEP, and there is a valid phone and email address for her.

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

Chief Kafarski mentioned the budget was approved. The Environmental Commission received \$175.00 less than they had for the previous fiscal year.

Maryann Royal made a motion to approve payment for dues to ANJEC, which was seconded by Kathy Katz and approved by voice vote, with no abstentions or nays. A second motion was made by Kathy Klink and seconded by Kathy Katz to approve the dues for RHA, which was approved by voice vote with no abstentions or nays.

March on Litter Coordination Position

Nothing new to report.

SWAC – Municipal Tonnage Grant Application

Member Klink said the application has been submitted.

Guest Speakers for 2024

Nothing new to report.

Township Ordinance 2024-2025 – Stormwater Quality

Member Katz reported on the ordinance and how it relates to tree management on residents' properties.

New Business

There was no new business

Regular Member Position Discussion/Zoom Update

Nothing new to report.

2024 Budget

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

Events

Household cleanup day is this Saturday at 7:30 a.m. A volunteer is requested to assist.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

None

MEETING OPENED TO THE COMMISSION FOR COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

None

NEXT MEETING: June 19, 2024

The Environmental Commission will next meet for a meeting and hike/cleanup at the White Oak Trail. Please meet at the Bull's Island parking lot at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:35 pm

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

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Aron, Secretary