



Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2024

The regular meeting of the Delaware Township Environmental Commission (known in the minutes as EC) 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 7:30 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 Royat~~

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

Advisors: ~~Devin Cornia~~, Jane Engel (7:34), ~~Josh Goldman~~, ~~Rich Mongetti~~, Robert Weber

Absent: Shown by ~~strikethrough~~

Member of the public:

Minutes: Minutes July 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 Klink seconded the motion. The minutes were discussed and were approved by voice vote. Diana Garibaldi was an abstention.

Correspondence: Chair Kafarski went over an email received by the EC from resident Lorraine Smith regarding potential poisoning of her front deck. It was determined this was not something that the EC would handle, but since there is the potential of criminal activity, the matter was forwarded to the Delaware Township Police Department. Chair Kafarski let Ms. Smith know this information via email. Member Katz suggested referring this to the county Health Department for testing of the area of concern.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning Board/Site Inspection - K. Katz

Member Katz reported that there was no meeting held due to an issue with Zoom.

Clean Communities & Recycling

Member Klink reported that Justin Squashic, Director of Public Works, has assumed the responsibility of Clean Communities Coordinator. March on Litter will take place on October 19, and Member Klink is working with the Director of Public Works on coordinating the event.

Chair Kafarski noted that in the future, the Director of Public Works should be the contact for anything March on Litter related.

Member Klink reported that new signs have been put up at the DPW for electronics recycling drop offs.

Open Space - S. Lockwood, K. Katz

Member Katz reported that the newly hired Open Space Coordinator attended the meeting. The revisions to the target farm list were worked on. The planner had given the revised list in August to meet the new criteria from the State (SADC). There was discussion about that amongst the members and the Open Space Coordinator.

Member Katz reviewed a proposal from an Open Space Committee member who suggested doing a “passport” for visiting different open spaces and for rewards depending on participation. Member Katz suggested forming a subcommittee for the project, and asked for volunteers from the EC to assist the Open Space subcommittee.

There was one application for a property on Boars Head Road. The committee will be requesting bids for appraisals to get the property preserved.

Easement Monitoring - K. Katz

Nothing new to report. A “Welcome to Delaware Twp” letter was created, but is still on hold due to timing constraints.

Schools – John Kafarski

Chair Kafarski reported that school is back in session, and there will be more collaboration between the Green Team and the EC going forward. The Green Team has achieved their silver certification. Delaware Township School is only one of 13 schools in NJ to obtain that certification.

“Waste Not Wednesdays” has restarted with the goal of encouraging recycling, Terracycling and composting.

Grants - K. Katz

Member Katz reported that the final report for Open Space Public Access is still being worked on. PSE&G will have funding for the Sustainable Jersey grant again, and the EC is encouraged to apply. Other organizations also have grants that the EC can apply for, so if members would like to work on that, Member Katz will assist them.

Website - J. Kafarski

Chair Kafarski reported that the fireworks information was posted to the website. A list of archived articles was suggested for the website. If members have suggestions for the website, please let the Chair know.

Stormwater Management - S. Lockwood

Member Lockwood reported that there was no meeting again. Although there has not been much progress, there is still a desire to partner with Stockton Borough to look at CR 523 for stormwater management since that area involves the watershed; however, since CR 523 is a county road, some issues exist.

Projects

Member Garibaldi reported that bluebird season has come to an end. Bluebird boxes will be removed from Dilts Park due to upcoming construction.

Old Business

Lower Wild and Scenic Delaware River - Resolution Update

Chair Kafarski reported that the Township Committee has not been receptive to the resolution for designation for the tributaries. Grants are available whether the Township has the designation or not, though it was suggested that the EC find all the reasons why the designation is beneficial. An EC liaison could attend the meetings for the Lower Wild and Scenic. Member Klink suggested finding more information to bring to the Township Committee for the designation. Chair Kafarski

will let the EC members know when the next meeting with representatives from the Lower Delaware Wild River and Scenic and the Delaware Township EC will take place.

Dilts Park Pesticide Spray Application Regulations

Member Garibaldi has a checklist that is to be submitted to the DPW for review.

White Oak Trail Maintenance Plan and MOA

Member Klink mentioned the trail does need to be cut, and the proposed twice a year cutting should be sufficient for the trail maintenance. Chair Kafarski will follow up with Justin Squashic, Director of Public Works.

Member Klink stated that there are planks on the bridges that can be replaced rather than the entire bridge. The line item in the EC budget for trail maintenance can be used towards bridge plank repairs since the DPW is now assisting with the trail maintenance. Member Klink will work with Justin Squashic to come up with a plan and will report back at the October EC meeting.

The secretary reported that she reached out to the contact at the State regarding the status of the MOA. The document is in progress, and their meeting will be held on September 25. More information will be available after they meet and relayed at the October meeting.

March on Litter Coordination Position

Member Klink will continue working with Justin Squashic, who has taken over the coordinator role.

Community Day

Chair Kafarski gave an update on the EC participation at Community Day. Some information on well testing was given out at the table, and there was a good amount of interest in the Open Spaces Access program.

Well Testing Dates

Member Katz reported that first evening for well test kit pickups was held tonight, with 14 walk-ins receiving kits. There have been 34 kits pre-sold, and the remainder of the sales will take place on Saturday. Returns will be done on Monday, September 23 at DPW from 7:00-9:30 a.m., and more information will follow at the October meeting.

New Business

There was no new business.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

There were no comments or questions.

MEETING OPENED TO THE COMMISSION FOR COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

Member Garibaldi stated there was a lot of debris at the park following the annual fireworks, and birds were also on the debris. Member DiMatteo raised the question of whether or not the EC would want to continue to support the fireworks given the environmental impact. Regarding the cleanup efforts at Dilts Park after the fireworks, Chair Kafarski will follow up.

Member Klink stated that there needs to be coordination with the Recreation Commission for the yearly dates for EC events, especially for March on Litter. It was suggested to have the dates ready for October since the Recreation Commission will need to send their postcards to the printer.

Member Garibaldi mentioned issues occurring at the park, such as dogs off leash, smoking, and people urinating. Member Katz encouraged Member Garibaldi to consult the police to enforce the resolutions.

NEXT MEETING: October 16, 2024

The Environmental Commission will next meet for a meeting on the above-mentioned date at 7:30 p.m.

EVENTS

March on Litter will take place on October 19.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:07 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Aron, Secretary