



Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes
October 16, 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 7:31 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 Mongetti, Robert Weber

Absent: Shown by ~~strikethrough~~

Members of the public: Luke Hanson, Mike Sherr, NJ Watershed Program WAM 11 Ambassador

Minutes: Minutes September 18, 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 were approved by voice vote with corrections to be made. One abstention: Mary Anne Royal.

Correspondence: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning Board/Site Inspection - K. Katz

Member Katz reported that at the last meeting there was a new application for a property on Strimples Mill Road, adjacent to the Wescott Preserve. The property owners are requesting a site plan for conditional use, accessory buildings for farm use and machinery, as well as two-bedroom upstairs guest quarters. They also want to expand an existing cottage and add square footage. The old farmhouse would be demolished and replaced by a new house. There was a request to waive the site plan by the applicant; however, it has been determined that drainage is significant on the property. The planning board will be having a hearing at the November meeting to see if they will grant a waiver for not having a site plan, and a recommendation from the EC is requested based on the site visit and plot plan. Member Klink recommends a full site plan be carried out that shows any wetlands on the property, where the water is draining and how it can be properly managed to avoid flooding.

A motion was made by Member Royal and seconded by Member Garibaldi, to move forward with the recommendation of requiring a full site plan.

Clean Communities & Recycling

Member Klink reported that March on Litter takes place this Saturday from 8:30-11:00 a.m. Bags and gloves will be distributed to the cleanup crews. The members discussed moving March on Litter to the first Saturday in October. The consensus from the EC was that moving it to the first Saturday in October would be beneficial to all other organizations involved (Rec Commission, DTAA, et).

Member Klink stated that Justin Squashic, director of public works, has set up an electronics recycling drop-off area at the DPW. The list of items that can and cannot be recycled are on the website. This information will also be sent to The Bridge newsletter for the next issue.

Open Space - S. Lockwood, K. Katz

Member Katz stated that no meeting was held.

Easement Monitoring - K. Katz

Nothing new to report. Member Royal will get the welcome letter for new Township

homeowners completed.

Environmental Ordinance – Katz

Member Katz reported on the recommended changes to the model conservation and drainage easement ordinance language. The changes were previously distributed, and a meeting will be set up with EC members Katz, Royal and Klink to follow up.

Schools – John Kafarski

Chair Kafarski reported that Waste Not Wednesdays are continuing and the students are actively participating. The Board of Education meeting was held last night and there are open Board positions for this election. Member Klink inquired about an environmental impact from the new playground, but no information is available yet.

Grants - K. Katz

Member Katz reported that the deadline for the final report has been extended to the end of November. The Open Space passport program will be coordinated with the EC.

Member Royal distributed information on a grant. If the EC is to apply, everything would need to be in place by the next Township Committee meeting; however, even if that cannot happen due to timing, the framework for another future grant would exist.

Website - J. Kafarski

Chair Kafarski reported that he added the electronics recycling information and 2023 well testing results to the website. The 2024 results will also be added once available.

Stormwater Management - S. Lockwood

Member Lockwood reported that Stockton has been trying to get an NRCS plan for stormwater focused on CR 523. Stockton had requested a “letter of support” from Delaware Township, which was approved at the October Township Committee meeting.

Projects

Member Garibaldi reported that the bluebird boxes have been removed from Dilts Park during the anticipated park construction.

Old Business

Dilts Park Pesticide Spray Application Regulations

Member Garibaldi distributed a checklist and calendar example for pesticide

spraying. Suggested measures for pesticide and herbicide spraying at Dilts Park include: following NJDAC notifications, uploading public notice to the Township website and EC website, posting signs at the entry points into the park (including walking trails), posting signs at all areas to be sprayed, which will remain posted for 48 hours (or longer if required), and access to records of applications that include which chemicals were applied, and when and where they were applied.

EC members discussed how to effectively make the pesticide application information available to the public. Chair Kafarski will discuss with the mayor to see what his thoughts are and make a decision on how to proceed after that conversation.

White Oak Trail Maintenance Plan and MOA

Chair Kafarski noted that trail was mowed by the DPW and may be mowed again in November.

The secretary reported that the meeting that was to be held on September 25th at the State was pushed to October 24th. The contact there has continued to meet with her office and clarified issues, and they will meet again before the 24th. After the meeting on the 24th, she will call or email with an update regarding the MOA.

Member Klink distributed a list of the bridges that need repairs. She will look into the prices of plank replacement, which is expected to be expensive. Trail maintenance funds can be used, but the Friends of Delaware also have donations in Tony Szwed's name that could possibly be used. The Friends of Delaware have concerns about liability, and Member Klink will contact the State to find out about the liability part of the MOA.

Well Testing Dates

Member Katz summarized the well testing results. There were many first-time testers this year. More information on the results will be posted to the EC website once available.

New Business

EV Charging Station Update

Chair Kafarski reported that on November 12 there will be a presentation to the Township Committee regarding the charging stations. Mary Lyons is researching grants. Member Katz requested the information from the subcommittee, as the EC had many questions.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

Mike Sherr introduced himself and gave a brief overview of what he does and what areas he serves as a NJ Watershed Ambassador. He looks forward to working with

the Delaware Township EC as a free and helpful resource.

MEETING OPENED TO THE COMMISSION FOR COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

None

NEXT MEETING: November 20, 2024

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

EVENTS

The EC plans to coordinate with the Recreation Commission for 2025 so events do not conflict.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:12 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Aron, Secretary