



Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes
December 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 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: None

Minutes: November 20, 2024

The minutes of the noted meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Member

Royal made a motion to approve the minutes for discussion. Member DiMatteo seconded the motion. The minutes were discussed and were approved unanimously by voice vote with corrections. One abstention: Member Katz

Correspondence: None

Presentations: Member Peters gave a presentation on the proposed NJ electric vehicle tax, and an overview of the benefits of EVs. She cited a need for advocacy because although EVs currently make up a very small percentage of vehicles driven in the state, NJ EV owners would be charged a tax that is twice as much as average gas-powered vehicles. It was suggested to put the EV fact sheet from the NJDEP onto the EC website for the public to review.

Member Peters also introduced Dark Sky International, which is an organization that seeks to protect communities from the effects of light pollution through outreach, advocacy and conservation. Information on Dark Sky International will also be put on the EC website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning Board/Site Inspection - K. Katz

There were no applications. At the November meeting the site plan waiver was approved for the Strimples Mill Road property.

The Planning Board will be looking into a lighting ordinance for the Township.

Clean Communities & Recycling

Member Klink mentioned the electronics recycling at the DPW lot, which eliminates the need for an electronics recycling day since the pallet is always there.

Clean Communities sponsorship funding is available for the Raritan Headwaters Association cleanup, Bulls Island cleanup, Delaware River cleanup and March on Litter. The director of Public Works is in charge of the funding now that he is the Clean Communities coordinator.

Open Space - S. Lockwood, K. Katz

Member Katz reported that the two appraisals for the Burns property have been done. The Open Space coordinator is waiting on the second appraiser's report and then can send a final report. The postcard was approved for a mailing to property owners with 10+ acres eligible for farmland and open space preservation. The goal is to have the mailing out in the beginning of 2025.

To continue funding for Green Acres, it is required to have an updated open space and recreation plan. The last plan was done in 2014 and the state requires an

update every 10 years. The committee will determine whether the Township's current master plan reexamination report will suffice since it was completed in 2022.

Member Klink mentioned the Open Space passport program and inquired about remaining EC funding to see if it could be applied to the program. An invoice is needed to determine specific costs.

Easement Monitoring - K. Katz

Nothing new to report

Environmental Ordinance – Katz

No report

Schools – John Kafarski

Chair Kafarski reported that Waste Not Wednesdays continue and will likely be expanding to Fridays beginning in February. Tate Hoffman, a ten-year Board of Education member has finished his term and is retiring from the Board.

The Earth Day celebration at the school will be held on April 17 with the theme of Dark Skies.

Grants - K. Katz

Member Katz reported that the grant has been closed out and the EC is now eligible to apply for future Sustainable Jersey grants.

Website - J. Kafarski

Member Garibaldi will be taking over website responsibilities in January.

Stormwater Management - S. Lockwood

Nothing new to report.

Projects

Discussion was held regarding a possible bluebird talk for February or March, and also selling the existing stock of bluebird boxes.

Old Business

Dilts Park Pesticide Spray Application Regulations

Member Garibaldi went over the ongoing issue of pest management at Dilts Park. She referenced other NJ townships' resolutions to go pesticide free and also Stonyfield's Playfree initiative for safer pesticide alternatives, as well as other alternatives like using vinegar, manual weed pulling and overseeding.

Member DiMatteo noted that she reached out to Beyond Pesticides regarding their Parks for a Sustainable Future Program to get more information and see if they would be able to do a presentation for the EC. She also mentioned that TruGreen has non-toxic chemicals that may be an option for the park.

Chair Kafarski went over Integrated Pest Management plan for Delaware Township School. Member Katz asked what is being applied at the school's fields and also encouraged more parental involvement and outreach for which pesticides are being used.

White Oak Trail Maintenance Plan and MOA

Nothing new to report.

Member Klink provided an update about the Friends of Delaware Township and their concern about liability issues for the bridge repairs. It was determined that as a non-profit organization, they would not have liability issues and are therefore willing to move forward with bridge repairs.

2024 Environmental Commission Budget

Chair Kafarski noted that the EC budget for 2025 is still unknown but will be determined soon. Member Klink will research the cost for replacement wood boards for the bridges on the White Oak Trail. The EC previously set aside \$2,000.00 from the trail maintenance line item for repairs.

New Business

Membership Updates: Chair Kafarski reviewed the 2025 appointments. Members Kathy Katz and Susan Lockwood will continue in their current roles for additional three-year terms each.

Member Kathy Klink will be a regular member. Member Donna DiMatteo will be Alternate I and Member Jane Engel will be Alternate II.

Member Roger Locandro will be moving to an alternate position and Member Robert Weber will continue as an advisor. Members Devin Cornia and Josh Goldman will no longer be serving on the EC. All memberships will be finalized at the January Township Committee meeting.

Sustainable Jersey/Green Team Certification

Justin Squashic, who is part of the Green Team through his role in the Township, suggested the Green Team get certified with Sustainable Jersey. Members Katz and Klink reviewed action items for gaining points, which is how certifications are awarded. After discussion, the EC felt the best way to move forward is involving Justin Squashic and finding out what needs to be done for certification, what the expectations are and what the process would be.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

None

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Member DiMatteo questioned an increase in aircraft flying over the area, and if the EC can do anything about it because of the noise and pollution caused by the planes. Chair Kafarski stated there is likely not much the EC can do since flights are regulated by the FAA. Member Engel stated that a complaint should be made by the Township Committee to federal representatives.

NEXT MEETING: January 15, 2025

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

EVENTS

March on Litter will be held on October 4, 2025. Other EC event dates are still to be determined. Suggested events for 2025 could include presentations from NJ Watershed through the NJDEP.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:16 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Aron, Secretary