

The regular meeting of the Delaware Township Environmental Commission was held on the noted date, in the Delaware Township Municipal Building, 570 Rosemont Ringoes Road (County Route 604), Sergeantsville, New Jersey. Chair Szwed opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## STATEMENT

Chair Szwed 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 January 17, 2020.

- Discussion on type of meeting to be held through end of 2020
- Members discussed the ability of doing hybrid meetings through the end of the year. It was decided that hybrid meetings will be used through the end of 2020, with start time at 7:00 pm.

## Roll Call

Present: Regular Members: ~~Donna Dahringer~~, John Kafarski, Kathy Katz, Kathy Klink, Roger Locandro, Susan Lockwood (7:10 pm), Tony Szwed  
 Alternates: Mary Anne Royal, Alternate I, ~~Alan Scott~~, Alternate II  
 Advisors: ~~Linda Bradway~~, ~~Rich Mongelli~~  
 Absent: shown by strikethroughs

## Request change of members

The Environmental Commission discussed a change among the members, as requested by Member Dahringer, who agreed to Alternate I. Member Royal agreed to become a member. Due to the resignation of Alan Scott, it was decided to that Linda Bradway should become Alternate II. It was further noted that this recommendation would be made to the Township Committee for its approval.

## Minutes: July 15, 2020, 2020

The minutes of the noted meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Member Katz made a motion to approve the minutes for discussion. Member Kafarski seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented. Said motion was approved by voice vote, with an abstention by Member Royal.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### Site Inspection Committee – K. Katz

Estate of Joyce Opdyke, Block 19, Lots 29 and 29.01

Member Katz reported on the Committee's review of the Opdyke application before the Planning Board, for a boundary line adjustment. She noted that the Subdivision and Site Review Committee met on September 9, with the site inspection on September 13.

Member Katz noted that there are currently two lots in existence, one has a house, the other is vacant. She noted that the lot proposed to have the existing house is encumbered environmentally, containing a 300-foot C-1 buffer on the southern side of the property, nearly consuming the entire proposed lot. She further noted that the vacant lot would have some small wetlands areas and some C-1 buffer areas.

Member Katz noted that on the site visit, the pond on proposed Lot 29 was visible, as were the wetlands areas able to be identified by cattails. There is also a forested area on this lot. She noted that there is some haying on the southwest side of the existing house.

Member Katz stated that she thinks this is a good application to protect the environmental restrictions. She noted that two variances are needed: one is for insufficient road frontage on the vacant lot; the other is for an existing shed that will be too close to the property line when the new line goes into place. She further noted that there is parking for the existing house in front of the house, so that there is no need for a shared driveway.

Members discussed requesting a conservation easement to match the C-1 buffer. It was further requested that a digital copy of the survey be made to provide the GPS coordinates of the easement. Member Katz noted that the State will ask for electronic information, so this is not an unreasonable request. It was noted that this is not a subdivision and that an easement is not required. The Environmental Commission stated that there is no harm in requesting the easement.

#### Clean Communities – K. Klink

- River Clean Up, September 19, 8:30 a.m. until groups have completed their assigned areas  
Secretary Klink reported on the clean-up, modified to meet the needs of covid-19. She noted that groups of 6 to 10 have signed up with their own designated leader. The departure time for each group is staggered by one-half hour so that there is no “crossing of paths”.
- March on Litter – Secretary Klink stated that she is awaiting information from the school about requesting a field trip to take groups out as a part of the school day.

#### Recycling – K. Klink

- Shredder Day – 60 vehicles, 3 tons of paper; all went smoothly  
Secretary Klink reported that there were 60 vehicles with a total of three(3) tons of paper. She noted that everything went smoothly.

#### Open Space – K. Katz

Member Katz reported that the July meeting was held via zoom. She noted that the Maresca Martin project is in the title search phase. She noted that the title has been updated for the Lee Lau project and it should close within two months. She noted that the Cisek project closed on June 30. She concluded by stating that SADC has the preservation application for the Curtis Farm.

Member Katz stated that the Township Committee asked for input from the Open Space Committee about using Open Space money for maintenance. Member Katz noted that there was a discussion among the members with many public members providing opinions. She noted that the discussion lasted for about two hours. She also noted that the Open Space Chair has concerns about the current bond language and wants a legal interpretation about whether or not the money can be diverted for maintenance.

Member Katz stated that there will be an Open Space Meeting on September 21. She noted that at this meeting there will be further discussion on what Township properties might involve maintenance. She noted the focus was on Dilts Park. Member Katz reminded the OS Committee that the Environmental Commission is responsible for maintenance at the White Oak Trail. The Committee was reminded that most of the preserved properties are maintained by the owners of preserved farmlands and open space is maintained by groups such as NJ Conservation Foundation (NJCF) and Hunterdon Land Trust.

#### Planning Board – K. Katz

No meeting in August and September

Easement Monitoring – M. Royal

Member Royal discussed the construction permit process. She stated that from an internal standpoint there needs to be a process for checking when a permit is issued, concerning the validity of the easement information, which is a voluntary statement from the resident.

Member Lockwood stated that a property can be cross-referenced, as the permit requires identification.

There was further discussion about conservation easements. It was noted that the point of an easement is to protect the environmental sensitivity of the easement area. There was discussion about evaluating the conservation easement pamphlets, the “do’s and don’ts”. It was further discussed that these pamphlets should be posted on the website, with as much information as possible: definition, and what you can and cannot do, etc.

Member Lockwood noted that conservation and drainage easements are not the same, but have been “mingled”.

Member Royal stated that the EC needs to plan for the future. She noted that there should be a policy about complaints or issues in an easement area. It was noted that only the Construction Office can issue a summons, and that the Zoning Officer handles enforcement.

The Environmental Commission discussed writing a policy and comparing it to other townships. Such a policy would then need to be recommended to the Planning Board and then move to Township Committee.

Member Katz stated that she has to finish her sections of the maps. The EC discussed the issue of authority and felt that research needs to be done on that.

Schools – K. Klink

No extracurricular activities at this time

Grants – M. Royal

Member Royal stated that she is trying to learn about grants. She stated that the EC needs to think about what projects we should do grants on. She noted that it is easier to research grant sources when a project is clearly identified and well defined. She stated that in doing grant research, there has to be a clear idea of the project and what the project needs – estimated hours, equipment, materials, etc.

Website – J. Kafarski

Member Kafarski reported that he feels that Website Manager Eberle has been more responsive since the last discussion. Member Kafarski reported that the well testing was properly posted. Member Kafarski asked the members about a fourth quarter topic. The Commission discussed the idea of recycling, the rules of the yard, scrap metals, etc.

In discussing the website, members felt that the calendars should be more central to the information instead of using News and Announcements.

Penn East Pipeline – S. Lockwood

Member Lockwood stated that most meetings have been done remotely, with technical issues associated with virtual meetings. She noted that DRBC was going to have a hearing but it was postponed due to the technology issues.

Member Lockwood noted that there have been no developments since the State denied the use of eminent domain for state-funded properties. She noted that after the decision of the US Supreme Court, the issue has been “kicked back somewhere” for a judicial opinion.

Stormwater Management – S. Lockwood  
Nothing

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Sign up for participation dates – please check your calendars
- b. Well Testing – spread sheet attached, showing the 33 participants’ choice of kits

Member Katz reported that with the covid-19 restrictions, 33 residents still picked up and returned kits. She felt that the pre-ordering of kits was a good way to distribute the kits, with a dedicated pick-up time. She also noted that there was short notice for the event. She further noted that this was the first well testing event for which she made no calls to get the kits back.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. 2021 dates – review dates

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

There were no comments or questions from the public.

MEETING OPENED TO THE COMMISSION FOR COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

There was a discussion about putting future projects into this section. Members could think about some possible projects and report in this section.

NEXT MEETING: October 21, 2020

The Environmental Commission will next meet on the noted date at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:40 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen E. Klink, Secretary

Schedule of Events

2020 Towpath Trek, March 21 – cancelled, covid-19

K. Klink

2019 – 34 adults, 5 children; 44 bags trash, 49 bags recycling, 2 bags scrap metal  
2 metal posts, 1 desk, construction cone, 2 each – air mattress, blow-up raft  
1 mail box in concreted milk can

2018 – 16 adults, 3 children; 15 bags trash, 10 bags recycling (no plastic)  
1 steel sign post, 1 metal pole, 1 muffler, 2 rolls of wire

2020 – Tree Recovery Campaign – distribute 1000 free trees, bundles of 5, June 2

K. Klink, Linda Bradway, Maria, Tony Szwed (gone in about an hour!)

2019 – 750 trees, K. Klink, Alan Scott, MaryAnne Royal, Tony Szwed

2020 Clean Up Days,

No April Clean-Up – covid-19

June 20 – NO EC volunteers – 72 permits, 3 DPW employees, no residents out of vehicles

October 17

2019 – April 27 – 53 permits; J.Kafarski, R. Mongelli

June 15 – 33 permits; Mongelli Family – Rich, Grace, John

October 19 – 43 permits, R. Locandro

2020 Waterway Clean Up, April 18 – cancelled, covid-19

K. Klink –

2019 – 16 participants, 7 bags trash, 10 bags recycling

1 stove, 2 rugs, 1 tire, 1 tarp

2018 – 12 participants; 6 bags of trash; 4 bags recycling; 4 pipes;

1 rusted cart (like a hand truck) with 2 wheels; 3 sign/fence posts

2020 Shredder Days, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.

2020 – September 12, K. Klink, 60 participants;

June 27, K. Klink, K. Katz – 102 participants

2019 - May 18, K.Klink – 43 participants; May, 2018 – 48 participants; May, 2017 – 68

2019 - September 14, K.Klink – 62 participants, September 2018 – 46; September 2017 - 47

2019 River Clean Up, September 21, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; meet at Bull’s Island or Kingwood Boat Launch - K. Klink,

2019 – 108 participants; 13.5 miles along river; 48 bags trash; 11 bags recycling; 4 bags scrap; 5 bags bulky material

2018 – 90 participants; 53 bags of trash; 35 bags recycling; 1 bag scrap recycling

2019 March on Litter – October 12, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

K.Klink

2019 – 99 participants, 14.85 miles; 16 bags trash; 24 bags recycling; 4 tires

2018 – 58 participants; 11.1 miles cleaned; 18 bags trash; 6 bags recycling; 1 tire

2017 – 80 participants; 18 bags of trash, 6 bags recycling, 6 tires, 1 TV, 1 table

2019 White Oak Trail Day, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. , Meet on Quarry Road

K. Klink – members Alan Scott, John Kafarski and Wyatt, Kathy Katz, Susan Lockwood, Tony Szwed; Also – Bob Hornby, Sam Davis, Dale Hazard

2020 Planning Board inspection committee for pending applications

Also to be used for Easement Monitoring, per item #3, Delaware Township Planning Board Annual Meeting Notice Resolution, #2020-01.

January 12 – Habig, for PB, Block 58, Lot 4.01	February 16	March 15
April 19	May 17	June 14
July 12	August 16	September 13
October 18	November 15	December 13