

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; supported by the ZOOM platform for virtual meetings. Chair Szwed opened the meeting at 7:30 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 20, 2022, updated on February 18, 2021.

Roll Call

Present: Regular Members: John Kafarski, Kathy Katz, Kathy Klink, Roger Locandro,
Susan Lockwood, Mary Anne Royal, Tony Szwed
Alternates: Deb Polay, Alternate I, Zack Burger, Alternate II
Advisors: ~~Rich Mongelli~~, ~~Karen Peters~~, Josh Goldman

Absent: shown by strikethroughs

Minutes: January 19, 2022

The minutes of the noted meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Member Lockwood made a motion to approve the minutes for discussion. Member Katz seconded the motion. The minutes were discussed, and changes were made including typographical errors. Said motion was approved by voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Site Inspection Committee – K. Klink, K Katz
No applications

Clean Communities – K. Klink

Nothing to report, 2020 event collection list to be compiled
First event – Towpath Trek, March 26, 2022, 8:30 a.m., Bull's Island – front parking lot

Recycling – K. Klink

There was a lengthy discussion about the cardboard container at the DPW. It was noted that due to the high volume of residential shipping, this container fills rapidly, and fills to overflowing.

Member Locandro discussed a video he has seen about how recycling is broken. He will send the link to the Secretary who will send it to the members.

It was noted that Raritan Township runs a very successful recycling program due to the fact that the recycling station at Raritan Township is fully manned and only open to the public during regular business hours.

Open Space Committee – K. Katz

Member Katz reported that there will be a meeting next Tuesday.

Planning Board – K. Katz

Member Katz reported that the Planning Board met at the beginning of February and reorganized and recommended a budget.

Easement Monitoring – M. Royal

Secretary Klink reported that contracts have been drawn up with three residents on Sandbrook Headquarters concerning TS Ida damage that will be reimbursed with FEMA money. These documents are rights of access and construction agreements.

Chair Szwed noted that when the easement monitoring request was discussed at the Township Committee meeting, the TC will only address issues that are forwarded by the Easement Monitoring Committee. The discussion included the development of easement language that is better, clearer language. It was noted that this language would only be available for easements, moving forward, not those already approved and in place.

Schools – K. Klink

Nothing, until Student Group is reestablished.

Member Klink reported that the DTS Green Team is sponsoring an Earth Day Celebration on April 14, 2022, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. EC members are invited to attend and lend a helping hand. Member Lockwood stated that she would be in attendance.

Member Locandro was asked if his company, Energy Smarts would like to set up a display. Member Locandro stated that he would look into it.

Grants – M. Royal, D. Polay

Secretary Klink reported that the DT EC is the lead on a grant received from the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic Management Council in the amount of \$5,000.00. It was noted that this grant is for Habitat Restoration at Bull's Island, to restore the upstream part of the island that was once a campground. She noted that Kingwood Township EC is a partner, as is the D&R Canal State Park. She noted that there will be a big planting event scheduled for the weekend of April 30 – May 1.

Website – J. Kafarski

There was a discussion about photos being posted on the website. One example given is to put up a picture of the Free tree giveaway with the link for a flyer with this year's information. It was noted that these photos can be rotated throughout the year.

It was decided that the Quarterly 1, moving into Q2, topic should be the Ban the Bag program, eliminating the use of plastic bags in most large stores.

Stormwater Management – S. Lockwood

Member Lockwood noted that the Committee met on the first Wednesday of the month but are moving to the fourth Wednesday, and will meet in the downstairs conference room. She noted that Gayle Conover is the Chair. Member Lockwood noted that one goal is to review the report previously done by Princeton Hydro and see how to move forward with that. Member Lockwood also noted that Ms. Conover will be contacting neighboring municipalities to see if they have stormwater committees; and to see what approach those committees are using.

Member Lockwood noted that the next meeting will be February 23 and then the fourth Wednesday thereafter. She further noted that there will be focus discussions using the expertise of various preservation groups, such as D&R Greenway, NJCF, and Hunterdon Land Trust.

Member Katz asked about an education component and maintaining stream corridors. Member Lockwood agreed that there could be grant money available for good environmental projects to help with stream corridors and management. She also opined that there could be more money available from the new federal infrastructure funding.

Member Katz noted that she received free consultation from Rutgers for a rain garden. There was a discussion about webinars and programs that various members had knowledge of.

Projects – Chair Szwed

Chair Szwed noted that the EC Fund could consider more Bluebird box sales. It was noted that if possible, these could be sold at the Earth Day Celebration.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Sign up for participation dates – please check your calendars
- b. New Schedule for 2022

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Projects, not noted above

Members discussed the possibility of different speakers about different topics, such as stormwater, easements, C-1 buffers; all of which could help protect water quality

- There was a discussion about tree replacement for all of the lost ash trees. It was noted that recommendations should be considered that are easy to get, natives, and will thrive as long-term replacements.

Member Locandro stated that Pinelands Nursery is a great nursery. He noted that black spruce is a good tree to consider. He also noted that the North Carolina Native Society has listings of good recommendations.

- New business – easement monitoring

Per the discussion at the Township Committee meeting of February 14, the Township Attorney negotiated with two of three properties owners in the Sandbrook area; noting that the two property owners did not have an easement with the Township, but that the third owner did.

Members of the EC who attended the TC meeting on February 14 discussed the TC response about the EC question about easement monitoring. It was noted that the TC Attorney Tauriello was present and was asked for clarity on the language for easements. TC Attorney Tauriello stated that if the EC has problems with easement monitoring, the particular property with issues will have to be recommended to the TC for resolution.

TC Attorney Tauriello also suggested that the EC may ask the Planning Board about changes to the ordinance that would clarify the language. Member Lockwood noted that the State does easements all of the time, with a standard form that includes metes and bounds. She agreed that the EC may need legal help to draft a letter that contains clear language. Member Lockwood noted that at the TC meeting, it was stated all communication should strive to be standard and consistent.

There was a discussion about a pamphlet that could be developed describing “do’s and don’t’s” of easements, as held by some Township residents. It was noted that in reviewing previously handed-out pamphlets, that the information provided was of a general nature.

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

Member Katz asked Member Royal when the easement monitoring committee will resume inspections. Member Royal explained that the subcommittee will review communication to property owners who hold easements.

Member Royal discussed drafting a communication from the EC to the Township Committee and all stakeholders involved concerning development of Dilts Park. She noted that there have been suggestions about pollinator garden areas and water run-off protection areas

Member Katz stated that at the Planning Board meeting, there was a discussion about a meeting with the Master Planner for Dilts Park. She noted that the TC is taking lead at this level with representatives from each board/commission. She further noted that the Master Plan should be developed for Dilts and other Township-owned or Township-maintained properties (White Oak Trail).

Member Lockwood agreed but noted that there has already been one meeting between one TC member and the Clerk with some ideas being fostered. Member Lockwood stated that the EC should send a letter with ideas and suggestions. She further noted that the EC wants to be included and such inclusion should be noted in the letter.

Commission members discussed the letter and agreed that it should include ideas that have rationale related to mowing, water conservation, prevention of water runoff, etc. Members Royal, Katz and Klink agreed to walk the park and develop a list of suggestions.

NEXT MEETING: March 16, 2022, p.m.

The Environmental Commission will next meet on the noted date at 6:30 p.m.

The Commission members agreed that the hybrid meetings should continue.

ADJOURNMENT : 8:20 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen E. Klink, Secretary

Schedule of Events

2022 Towpath Trek, March 19, K. Klink

2021 Towpath Trek - 28 adults, 8 children; 26 bags trash, 12 bags recycling; bike frame, chair frame, inflatable boat, hubcaps, tire, railroad car handle

2020 – March 21 – cancelled, covid-19

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

2022 Waterway Clean Up, April 23, K. Klink

K. Klink serves as site coordinator for this RHA site, #33

2021 Waterway Clean Up - 20 participants, about 3 miles; 4 bags trash, 6 bags recyclables, some metal

2020 – cancelled due to covid-19

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

2022 Tree Recovery Campaign - TBD

2021 – 1000 free trees, K. Klink, K. Katz, M. Royal, D. Polay,
 2020 – 1000 free trees, gone in an hour! K. Klink, Linda Bradway, Maria, Tony Szwed
 2019 – 750 trees, K. Klink, Alan Scott, MaryAnne Royal, Tony Szwed

2022 Household Clean Up Days

April 30, 2022

June 18, 2022

October 15, 2022

2021 Household Clean Up Days

April 24, 2021, 52 permits sold, 3 DPW employees, J. Kafarski

June 19, 2021, 43 permits sold, 2 DPW employees

October 16, 2021, 32 permits sold, 2 DPW employees

2020 Household Clean Up Days (NO EC volunteers)

No April Clean-Up – covid-19

June 20 – 72 permits, 3 DPW employees, residents remain in vehicles

October 17 – 33 permits sold – 3 DPW employees, residents remain in vehicles

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

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

October 19 – 43 permits, R. Locandro

2022 Shredder Days, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. (participants counted as vehicles)

May 14, 2022, K. Klink

September 24, 2022, K. Klink

2021 Shredder Days – May 22, 2021, 61 participants, September 25, 2021

2020 – 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

2022 Delaware River Clean Up, September 17, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., K. Klink

Meet at Bull's Island or Kingwood Boat Launch - K. Klink

2021 – 1xx participants

2020 - 125 participants; 31 miles along river, 93 bags trash; 24 bags recycling; 30 tires, misc.

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

2022 March on Litter – October 8, ch on Litter – October 9, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.; K.Klink

2021 – 128 participants, 19.2 miles; 18 bags trash; 7 bags recycling; two pipes, one tire, etc.

2020 - 36 participants, 23.3 miles; 19 bags trash; 17.25 bags recycling; car bumper/muffler

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

2022 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 9	February 13	March 13
April 24	May 15	June 12
July - none	August 14	September 18
October 16	November 13	December 18