

The regular meeting of the Delaware Township Environmental Commission was held on the noted date in the Delaware Township Municipal Building, 570 Rosemont Ringoes Rd. (County Road 604), Sergeantsville, New Jersey; Chair Szwed opened the meeting at 7:34 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 March 2, 2023.

Roll Call

Present: Regular Members: John Kafarski, Kathy Katz, ~~Roger Locandro~~,
Tony Szwed, Susan Lockwood, ~~Mary Anne Royal~~
Alternates: Deb Polay, Alternate I, ~~Josh Goldman~~, Alternate II
Advisors: ~~Rich Mangelli~~, Karen Peters, Diana Garibaldi,
Devin Cornia

Absent: Shown by ~~strikethrough~~

Minutes: Minutes September 20, 2023

The minutes of the noted meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Member Katz made a motion to approve the minutes for discussion. Member Lockwood seconded the motion. The minutes were discussed and with zero corrections were approved. Said motion was approved by voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning Board/Site Inspection - K. Katz

Member Katz reported:

- The Planning Board discussed proposing a new lighting ordinance for Delaware Township, in response to a complaint about a property that consistently shines bright lights, causing

a nuisance and having a negative impact to adjacent properties and homeowners.
Discussions to continue during the next Planning Board meeting.

Clean Communities & Recycling

Member Kafarski will follow up to ask Amanda to start copying him on the monthly Clean Communities & Recycling reports, and request a copy of the budget from our CFO Diane Soriero McDaniel.

Open Space - S. Lockwood, K. Katz

Member Katz reported:

- An applicant expressed interest in preserving their 25.3 acre property on Boars Head Road. This property has not been identified as a targeted farm to be preserved and more information is required to push this forward. The request will be sent to the Agricultural Advisory Committee for consideration.
- The Open Space Committee was asked to review the Township Committee proposal to contract the Delaware Township Open Space Coordinator role to the Land Conservancy of New Jersey (LCNJ). After considerable conversation the Open Space Committee agreed to compose a letter to the Township Committee outlining any concerns and their recommendation.

Easements - K. Katz

Nothing new to report.

Schools - S. Lockwood

It was noted due to weather, the March on Litter was rescheduled to Wednesday, October 25, 2023 from 9:15 am to 11:15 am.

Grants - K. Katz, D. Polay

Nothing new to report.

Website - J. Kafarski

Member Kafarski will add the Bluebird Trail End of Season Report to the website.

Stormwater Management - S. Lockwood

Member Lockwood noted good news that Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will help develop a more comprehensive plan to evaluate the potential to lessen stormwater impacts from Route 523 into Stockton.

Projects- Bluebird Trail at Dilts Park (end of season update) - D. Garibaldi

Advisor Garibaldi provided the following summary: In March 2023 we installed a total of 6 bluebird boxes at Sara Dilts park, and are happy to report our 1st year was successful!

- 4 boxes had Bluebirds, 3 out of the 4 had 2 broods.
- 1 box had Tree Swallows.
- 1 box had House Wrens.
- Success rate for Bluebirds was 67%.
- Nesting material was removed and boxes cleaned out. 2 of the boxes were taken down due to location.

We are looking forward to a successful 2024 as we continue to expand our Bluebird Trail, for the public to enjoy!

As a follow-up, Advisor Garibaldi will send the report to Member Kafarski to post to the website, and to Member Lockwood for the Newsletter.

Old Business

White Oak Trail - Maintenance Update

- As a next step, Chair Szwed will discuss a plan with DPW Director Amanda Khan to develop a regular maintenance schedule.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station- Sub Committee Update

Last month Mary Lyons presented information to promote EV charging stations. A sub-committee was formed with Member Kafarski and Advisor Peters to help the DTS Green Team highlight the benefits and cost. No progress made this month. As a follow up Member Kafarski will work with representatives from the DTS Green Team on next steps.

Annual Well Water Testing- Statistics from September Event

In September we successfully completed two well water testing kit sales and the sample kit return. Member Katz reported a record 66 samples from 64 properties (2 properties had 2 wells) were sold, 50% of homeowners pre-registered by ordering their kits on-line. Positive feedback was received. If we continue to grow, next year we will consider expanding the returns to two separate dates.

Test results will be reported during the December meeting.

Lower Wild and Scenic Delaware River - Resolution Update

Member Kafarski noted:

- The draft resolution was presented at the October 10, 2023 Township Committee. Robert McEwan presented to the Township Committee an overview, purpose and benefits for approving the resolution. The Township Committee members asked questions, specifically about what would happen if the creeks were designated a disaster, and Mr. McEwan

assured them the state can still conduct a review, and a permit is not required. As a next step, the Township Committee will ask the Township Attorney to review, then make a final decision whether to approve the resolution.

Dilts Park Master Plan- Park Planner and Spray Application Updates

Park Planner- The initial concept plan of the Dilts Park plan was presented, by Collier Engineering, at the October 10, 2023 Township Committee meeting. Member Kafarski noted at a high level the plan “looked good” and as a next step the planner will incorporate the adjacent public properties into the plan.

Spray Application- Last month concerns were voiced about little to no notification to alert residents to the timing and contents of the weed treatment “spray” conducted at Dilts Park, As a follow-up, Advisor Garibaldi spoke to DPW Director Amanda Khan to inquire about the process to post notifications and alerts. Ms. Khan noted the information was posted on the website and suggested the Environmental Commission consider overseeing the process. Chair Szwed noted he will have further discussions with Ms. Khan and report back to the Environmental Commission.

Tree Planting Discussion

Chair Szwed requested this discussion be moved to our November meeting.

New Business

Presentation by Matt Sweet - Lockatong bank restoration project

This presentation will be rescheduled. Member Katz to follow up with Matt.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

Kathy Klink, resident, shared her opinion that the March on Litter Coordinator role and responsibilities should be led by the Environmental Commission, as it has been for 32 years. Ms. Klink provided an example letter for the Environmental Commission to consider sending to the Township Committee, as well a list of responsibilities for the March on Litter Coordinator role. There were discussions about this being a coordinated effort between the DPW, Delaware Township School and Environmental Commission. This topic was tabled for members to give it more thought, and have further discussions in November.

Donna DiMatteo, resident, noted concerns about the Dilts park weed treatment spray, stating there were times she took her dog for a walk not knowing the park was sprayed because there are no signs and/or no notification, and is worried about the health impact to

residents and dogs. Advisor Garibaldi noted similar concerns. (For more information refer to Old Business above.)

MEETING OPENED TO THE COMMISSION FOR COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

- Susan Lockwood noted topics for the next township newsletter must be submitted by Friday, October 27, 2023.

NEXT MEETING: November 15, 2023

The Environmental Commission will next meet on the noted date at 7:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:17 pm

Member Katz made a motion to adjourn; member Polay seconded the motion.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Garibaldi