

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 7:37 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 (8:10 pm), Diana Garibaldi,  
~~Devin Gornia~~

Absent: Shown by ~~strikethrough~~

**Minutes:** Minutes November 15, 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 Polay 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

Nothing new to report.

Clean Communities & Recycling

Nothing new to report.

Open Space - K. Katz

- It was reported in October that an applicant expressed interest in preserving their 25.3 acre property on Boars Head Road. At that time Member Katz noted the request was forwarded to the Agricultural Advisory Committee for consideration and they responded that they support the preservation. As a next step the Open Space Committee will work with Hunterdon County on funding.
- The Township Committee has tabled the discussion to hire an Open Space Coordinator to 2024.
- A draft map for the Open Space website is under review, and will include Preserved Farmland and Green Acres spaces.

Schools - S. Lockwood

Member Kafarski noted:

- The board voted down the proposal for the solar panels on the school roof because it did not make financial sense.
- Earth Day will be in April 2024, date TBA.

Grants - K. Katz, D. Polay

Sustainable NJ Grant: The team is making excellent progress on the website design for Public Access to Open Spaces. Member Katz provided hand-outs that depicted a draft of the Landing Page, Map of Township with Trails and Parks indicated, an alphabetical Listing of Trails and Parks, and an example of what the detailed park page would look like. As a follow up Member Katz requested the EC members review and provide feedback, preferably by January 2nd, and asked the township committee for guidance on town owned parcels, “what properties do we want to include?”, requesting a response by end of January, to finalize.

March is the deadline to request Sustainable Grants for 2024 & April 1st for ANJEC grants.

Website - J. Kafarski

Nothing new to report.

Stormwater Management - S. Lockwood

Refer to New Business.

Projects- D. Garibaldi

No new projects to report. We agreed to follow up on EC projects to consider for 2024.

## **Old Business**

### White Oak Trail - Maintenance Update

Nothing new to report.

### Electric Vehicle Charging Station- Sub Committee Update

Member Kafarski to coordinate a meeting in January with Green Team members Mary Lyons to discuss next steps.

### Lower Wild and Scenic Delaware River - Resolution Update

The Township Committee communicated the resolution will be tabled. The Environmental Commission will raise this again with the TC in 2024.

### Dilts Park Pesticide Spray Application Updates

Advisor Garibaldi offered to research and develop a protocol for notifying the public in advance of Pesticide Spraying at Dilt's Park. Chair Szwed agreed and noted the farm spraying on the Reimer and Kean fields is another topic and will be kept separate and discussed at a later date. Member Katz conducted research on existing DEP pesticide regulations and will share the information with Advisor Garibaldi. Amanda Khan, who was director of DPW, is no longer an employee of Delaware Township. Member Kafarski to follow up on a contact person to work with.

### March on Litter Coordinator position discussion

Tabled to our January 17th meeting. Member Katz noted she will meet with Kathy Klink and provide feedback on the draft March on Litter coordinator role and responsibilities Kathy Klink presented in October.

## **New Business**

### Membership for 2024

Chair Szwed noted there is an opening for a member and Josh Goldman Alternate II is up this year. Chair Szwed asked the following members if they are interested in moving up:

Deb Polay- Alternate I to Member, yes.

Karen Peters- Advisor to Alternate 1, yes.

Diana Garibaldi- Advisor to Alternate II, yes.

### Stormwater Permit Tier A Points System

Member Lockwood noted the Stormwater Committee (SWC) suggested that SWC, the Environmental Commission and Township Engineer meet to understand all requirements. The Environmental Commission is willing to meet but would like to understand the Township Committee's point of view. Chair Szwed note the EC is in agreement to host and requested the SWM write a letter to the Township Committee. Member Lockwood will raise to the Township Committee in 2024.

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 noted:

- She sent us the brochure for presentations that Rutgers Master Gardeners are giving in 2024.
- Still no word on from NJDEP regarding the extension of the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA), to maintain the White Oak trail, that expired in November 2023.

Advisor Peters noted that registration is now open to the Environmental Stewardship program sponsored by Rutgers. Classes will begin on January 24th. Advisor Peters will send an email with the link and details.

Member Kafarski noted November's EC approval for planting trees on the Delaware Township Higgins property needs to be confirmed.

Chair Szwed noted we will add the Environmental Commission Budget, Dues and Standard Memberships to January 17th agenda.

NEXT MEETING: January 17, 2024

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

ADJOURNMENT: 9:33 pm

Member Kafarski 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