

Keyport Environmental Commission
July 22, 2024 Meeting
Keyport Borough Hall

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 8:03 pm by **Vice Chair Michael Palmisano.**

Sunshine Law was Read

Salute to the Flag

Roll Call

	NAME	STATUS	TERM EXPIRES	PRESENT	ABSENT
1	JOE SHERIDAN (JS)	COMMISSIONER, CHAIR/SECRETARY	12/31/2026		X
2	MIKE PALMISANO (MP)	COMMISSIONER, VICE CHAIR	12/31/2024	X	
3	ROY JIMENEZ, Sr. (RJ)	COMMISSIONER	12/31/2024		X
4	DON PACHECO (DP)	COMMISSIONER	12/31/2025		X
5	LYNNE KOSOBUCKI (LK)	COMMISSIONER, 2-YEAR ALTERNATE #1	12/31/2025	X	
6	MIKE LANE (ML)	COMMISSIONER	12/31/2025	X	
7	DOUG WEIDER (DW)	COMMISSIONER	12/31/2026		X
8	KATHLEEN BULL DE LOS REYES	COMMISSIONER	12/31/2025	X	
9	LENNIE WALKER	COMMISSIONER ALTERNATE #2	12/31/2024		X
9	HEATHER BRADY (HB)	KEYPORT BOUROUGH COUNCIL LIAISON	12/31/2024	X	
10	DR. JUN CHENG	KEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOC. PROFESSOR	-	X	
11	Al Litwak	RESIDENT	-	X	
12	Nancy Smalling	RESIDENT	-	X	

Corrections to the June 24, 2024 KEC Minutes:

None.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Minutes of the **June 24, 2024**, meeting; Motion to Accept by Mike Lane; Kathleen Bull de Los Reyes 2nd; No comments/Edits; Minutes Unanimously Approved. Heather Brady and Lynne Kosobucki abstain.

Introduction of new Commissioners:

Mike Lane introduced new Commissioners Kathleen de Los Reyes (present) and Lennie Walker (absent).

Keyport Borough Council (KBC) Item Updates:

The Agenda offered the following KBC items for KEC discussion:

1. Mariner's Village

Planning Board granted an extension of time.

Council denied request for PILOT.

2. Deputy Ventures (formerly Mystic at Keyport (44 Beers Street)

Documents were accepted by the engineer. Deed/declaration covenants and restrictions are under legal review.

3. 31 W. Front Street (restaurant and Residential Units)

The plan is moving forward. They requested a downgrade of persons for the restaurant to under 50.

4. Aeromarine Issues

NJDEP is working on the open issues.

5. Beach Park Outfall Pipe/Flooding Issues

The Borough is jetting as often as they can.

6. Port 149 Bulkhead Progress

No further movement.

Lead Slag contamination found along Aeromarine Bayfront:

Al Litwak, a resident who lives near the Aeromarine site, provided background on the actions taken by Greg Remaud, the NY/NJ Baykeeper, as well as the related news coverage. He described the extensive erosion at the site and shared samples of the oily mud and slag he had brought with him. As he noted, it appears that there are multiple issues with this site.

Nancy Smalling, a resident, member of the Harbor Commission, and chemist by training, explained that having pieces of lead on the beach was not a problem since lead cannot be absorbed through the skin. Rather, the risk of lead contamination arises when the lead is ingested. Ms. Smalling expressed concern that the current investigation might create an unnecessary panic. She asked that the lead not be confused with anything else that is leaching from the Aeromarine site. She also discussed the CFMs, which were 280 two weeks ago.

General discussion continued regarding the source of the lead as well as reposting DEP signs that had previously been posted in 2015. Dr. Chen explained that, while it was possible for small pieces of lead or rock to move long distances, it was unlikely that large pieces of rock or lead could do so. He is working on a model for net transport of materials on the beach. Based on his work, he did not believe it possible for a piece the size of Mr. Litwak's sample, to travel from the National Lead site to Keyport.

Mike Lane discussed the sampling wells on the Aeromarine property. He also expressed concern about the lack of a bulkhead that could contain the materials on site. Further, Mr. Lane noted that Union Beach's proposed bulkhead along the creek will exacerbate the problem of contaminants leaching into the bay. He also provided a violation notice dated July 2, 2024 that was issued to Bay Ridge Realty, the owner of the Aeromarine property. A copy of the violation notice is attached as Attachment #1.

After further discussion, the Commission members and Dr. Chen planned to meet on July 23, 2024, at low tide at the end of Walnut Street to inspect the site.

Mike Lane's Observations on KBC Items:

- Please see Attachment #2, ML's Observations.

Mike Lane's Health and Safety Concerns:

- Please see Attachment #3. In addition, Mr. Lane discussed the Clean Marine Program involving cleaning boat bottoms.

Dr. Cheng's Report

No update.

Horseshoe Crab Signs

Councilmembers Brady and McNamara posted the signs at Cedar Street.

Waterspirits

Rachel Davis was not present. Councilmember Brady has been in email contact with Ms. Davis regarding the Skip the Stuff program.

Spotted Lantern Flies

Discussion was postponed until the next meeting.

Open to the Public

9:39pm: Mr. Palmisano opened the meeting to the Public.

Close to the Public

9:39pm: Mr. Palmisano closed the meeting to the Public.

ACTION ITEMS LIST

1. **ALL:** To identify Keyport areas prone to flooding, complete with photos, to be used in a Letter of Recommendation to the Borough Council.

ATTACHED ITEMS LIST

1. July 2, 2024 DEP violation notice issued to Bay Ridge Realty.
2. Mike Lane's July 22, 2024 Observations.
3. Mike Lane's Health and Safety Input for July 22, 2024 meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 9:40pm: Motion to Adjourn by Councilmember Brady; Ms. Kosobucki 2nd; Unanimous.