

Keyport Environmental Commission Minutes for March 27, 2023 – Conducted in Keyport’s Borough Hall

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 8:03pm by **Vice Chairperson Mike Palmisano** as **Chairperson Ken DeGroat** was unable to make the meeting.

Sunshine Law was Read

Salute to the Flag

Roll Call

	NAME	STATUS	TERM EXPIRES	PRESENT	ABSENT
1	KEN DEGROAT (KD)	COMMISSIONER, CHAIRPERSON	12/31/2024		X
2	MIKE PALMISANO (MP)	COMMISSIONER, VICE CHAIRPERSON	12/31/2024	X	
3	JOE SHERIDAN (JS)	COMMISSIONER, SECRETARY	12/31/2023	X	
4	DON PACHECO (DP)	COMMISSIONER	12/31/2025	X	
5	JAMES AUMACK (JA)	COMMISSIONER	12/31/2023	X	
6	MATT TEVIS (MT)	COMMISSIONER	12/31/2025	X	
7	MIKE LANE (ML)	COMMISSIONER	12/31/2025	X	
8	HEATHER BRADY (HB)	COMMISSIONER, 2 YEAR ALTERNATE	12/31/2024	X	
9	DOUG WEIDER (DW)	COMMISSIONER, 2 YEAR ALTERNATE	12/31/2024		X
10	CATHY REILLY (CR)	KEYPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL LIAISON	12/31/2023	X	
11	Dr. Jun Cheng (JC)	Kean University Assoc. Professor	-	X	

Corrections to Jan. 23, 2023 KEC Minutes:

- 1. Roll Call:** James Aumack (JA) was incorrectly identified as no longer with the Keyport Environmental Commission, when it was Roy Jimenez whose spot was replaced by Mike Lane. Roy was thanked for his involvement in the Keyport Environmental Commission.
- 2. Keyport Unified Planning Board (KUPB) Updates:** 25 E. Front Street, 5-story Apartment Building was incorrectly identified as 54 units vice 50 units.
- 3. Mike Lane Update:** was "...they were accompanied by Bob Burlew and/or me vice Mike Lane."
- 4. MOTION:** There was a Motion made by Mike Lane and 2nd by Joe Sheridan and unanimously approved for each Commissioner to submit a "2023 Top Ten Keyport Environmental Commission Priority List", for discussion and eventual agreement on the KEC priorities.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes:

There was no Quorum for the KEC Meeting on February 27th, 2023. Minutes of the January 23rd, 2023, meeting; Motion to Accept by Matt Tevis (MT); Mike Lane (ML) 2nd; Four (4) revisions were request by ML (see above); JA Abstained due to absence at the 1/23/2023 KEC Meeting; Unanimously Approved as Revised.

Keyport Unified Planning Board (KUPB) Updates:

The Agenda offered the following eight (8) KUPB items for KEC discussion:

- 1. Mariner's Village**
- 2. Deputy Ventures (formerly Mystic at Keyport (44 Beers Street)**
- 3. 31 W. Front Street (restaurant and 9 Residential Units)**

- 4. Aeromarine Issues (water quality testing by NY/NJ Baykeeper – needed: previous test well results)**
- 5. 317 Beers Street (wetland/swale infringement)**
- 6. Beach Park Outfall Pipe/Flooding Issues**
- 7. Port 149 Bulkhead Progress**
- 8. Former Pedersen’s Marina property (multi-story building proposal)**
- 9. Update on Dr. Cheng’s Research Initiative.**

(DP):

- There were no updates on the nine (9) items in accordance with the Keyport Planning/Zoning Board.

(ML):

- **Item 6:** the monies are not in the 2023 Keyport Municipal Budget to correct the Outfall Pipe/Flooding issue.
- **Item 7:** The issue with the ground elevation may require the use of a *return* to be constructed that is elevated above the maximum flood height.

(JA):

- Asked ML about the outfall pipe duckbill – ML said that a pump is needed to open the outfall pipe duckbill.

(MP):

- Added that the outfall pipe duckbill should *open* at low tide.

(ML):

- The outfall pipe duckbill “leaks” out.

(MP):

- Introduced Dr. Jun Chen, Kean University Associate Professor and Coastal Geologist, to summarize his research initiative.

Dr. Cheng:

The following rundown is from an e-mail dated February 28, 2023 at 9:13am, from Dr. Jun Cheng to Joe Sheridan:

Here is my brief summary:

I am planning to develop a long-term monitoring coastal processes program at Keyport. We have already established beach profile survey lines along the coast, and did our first beach survey last week, and this task will be continued with a monthly frequency over a long term to accumulate a time-series of beach profile changes. Wave and tide measurement will be conducted to monitor the hydrodynamic conditions in the near future. Surface and core sediment will be collected and analyzed over the summer season.

The goal of this is to 1) evaluate the spreading effect of nourished sand from Union Beach, is it just by-passing our area, or will the sand be accumulating in our area? 2) develop a sediment budget at Keyport. Especially in the case of sediment deposition occurring in the navigational channel or the marina, we can provide insights on sediment pathway and related solutions ; 3) In case of any major storm impacts in the future, we shall have pre-storm beach profile data, and post-storm beach survey will be conducted immediately afterwards to provide assessment on storm damage on the coast. 4) Calibrated with field data observations (nearshore bay bathymetry, foreshore beach slope, tide, wave etc), a hydrodynamic numerical modeling on Keyport coast will be established, which will help to explain the pattern of sediment/pollution movement with an ultimate goal to solve practical problems that our town will be facing. 5) With scientific data and on-going experiments, I look forward to opportunities to reach out to local middle/high schools at Keyport, and do activities and guest lectures there to promote coastal education.

Is that clear? I can provide more details if needed,

Best Regards,

Jun

(ML):

- Spoke about Princeton University's measurement of Keyport transects after Superstorm Sandy.

***Transect:** (geography) A [geographical](#) technique in which the [angle](#) of a beach is measured with a ranging [pole](#) and a [clinometer](#). yourdictionary.com*

- Spoke about Princeton University's measurement of Keyport transects after Superstorm Sandy.
- Matrix New World also performed transects.
- There are also aerial photos of sand drift across Keyport's waterfronts, including discussion on a possible jetty to be created to protect the Keyport boat ramp.

(MP):

- You would think that the sand migrates from Union Beach, but it is the opposite.
- The KEC is also responsible for the natural resource inventory, which is part of the Keyport Master Plan.

(MP):

- We also re-purposed evergreen trees.

(JS):

- Regarding the re-purposed evergreen tree program. As sent out in an e-mail to the KEC on 2/13/2023:

A big Keyport Environmental Commission **THANK YOU** to those who volunteered this past Saturday, 2/11, with sunshine, wind and some chilly 40s weather, we were able to fill the main depression with 28 recycled evergreen trees at the Keyport Cedar Street Park Beach Dune to help foster sand dune growth to help mitigate flooding! We were also able to get a mini-beach clean-up performed!



Photos show the 28 evergreen trees piled up at the Keyport Cedar Street Park Dune and then placed within the main depression behind the dune. Photos courtesy of J. Sheridan – February 13, 2023.

(MP):

- Regarding the First Street & Broad Street crosswalk painting, we are still in need of progress.

(ML):

- The Southwest corner of Atlantic Street & First Street should have the stop line moved back approx. 10 feet.

(MP):

- Talking about Clean Ocean Action Beach Sweeps, they are scheduled for Saturday, April 1st, from 9:00am thru 12:30pm. Participants are requested to register and arrive at Cedar Street Park Beach at staggered times. The event is rain or shine.

(MP):

- On the subject of the 2023 Top Ten Keyport Environmental Commission Priorities, Mike thought that we should wait until Commissioner DeGroat returns at the April Meeting. **JS** made the Motion to table the discussion and **JA** 2nd it. The motion was unanimously approved.

(JS):

- Requested the fellow Commissioners to e-mail their 2023 KEC Top Ten Priorities list to **JS**, who will create a summary matrix to allow better discussion at the KEC meeting on April 24th.

(DP):

- DP will need to get clarification on whether or not he can add his opinion- will check with the Borough Clerk and Attorney.

(ML):

- Said that previous Planning Board Representatives of the KEC have had conflicts with the KEC discussions; there should be official Borough of Keyport clarification.

New Business:

Open to the Public

8:40pm: **MP** opened the meeting to the Public.

(Dr. Cheng):

- Are they currently pumping sand into Union Beach?

(MT):

- Union Beach is staging big equipment to move sand soon.

(MP):

- MP has the plans – the size of the Union Beach sand build-up will block the view of the water.

(Dr. Cheng):

- It is important to understand if any of this new Union Beach sand will migrate to Keyport.

(JA):

- Keyport does exist in a “bight.”

*In geography, a **bight** is a concave bend or curvature in a coastline, river or other geographical feature, or it may refer to a very open bay formed by such a feature. Such bays are typically broad, open, shallow and only slightly recessed. [Wikipedia](#)*

(MP):

- We are losing beach because the sand migrates past the Aeromarine.

(JA):

- Voiced that we get all the trash to wash up but not the sand.

(ML):

- Stated in the Winter, the sand goes out, and in the Summer, the sand comes in. This phenomena can be measured by the whalers (firm reference point) on the bulkhead.

Close to the Public

8:41pm: MP closed the meeting to the Public.

(MT):

- Are we planting any new plants/shrubs on Sunday, April 23rd, along with the new beach grass? Last year, we spent a little over \$200. Should we do the same in 2023?

(KR):

- Will check with Keyport Borough Administrator Kimberly Humphrey to request the same amount as in 2022 for a similar type number of plants/shrubs.

(MT):

- **ACTION** to get new Quote from Pinelands Nursery and get to Councilwoman Reilly, Borough Administrator Humphrey, and Chairperson DeGroat to purchase plants/shrubs in time for April 23, 2023 planting at Cedar Street Beach Park Dune.
- Said that we should work towards cutting down invasive trees at the Cedar Street Park Dune as well.

(MP):

- Added that the invasive trees at Cedar Street Park Dune should get cut down, or at least have traps installed in them to combat lantern flies.

(MT):

- We can at least tag the invasive trees at the Cedar Street Park Dune when we plant on April 23rd.

(MP):

- The town may want to create a fund to cut down the invasive trees that are favored by the lantern flies.

(MT):

- The state is currently looking to see if the lantern fly population will come back.

(ML):

- Made a motion to invite the Keyport Borough Administrator Kimberly Humphrey to come to our April 24th meeting. **ML** made the Motion and **JS** 2nd it. The motion was unanimously approved.

Open to the Public

8:52pm: MP opened the meeting to the Public.

Close to the Public

8:53pm: MP closed the meeting to the Public.

ACTION ITEMS LIST

1. **JS** Collect and provide a matrix summarizing the Commissioners' Top Ten Keyport Environmental Commission Priority List.
2. **MT** Acquire and forward Pinelands Nursery Plant/Shrub Quote to K. DeGroat/C. Reilly/K. Humphrey in time to acquire plants by April 23rd planting.
3. **KD/CR** Invite Keyport Borough Administrator Kimberly Humphrey to the April 24, 2023 Keyport Environmental Commission Meeting.

ATTACHED ITEMS LIST

1. Keyport Environmental Commission Statement of Support for Fireman's Park Improvements

Meeting Adjourned 9:09pm: Motion to Adjourn by **JS; MT 2nd**; Unanimous Approval.

Next meeting will be on **Monday, April 24th, 2023, at 8:00pm, at Keyport Borough Hall Council Chamber.**

Minutes submitted by Joe Sheridan.

Mayor
Rose P. Araneo

Councilmembers
Lori Ann Davidson, President
J. Christopher Demarest
Kathleen McNamara
Ron Peperoni, Jr.
Cathleen Reilly
Melissa S. Vecchio



Borough Administrator
(Acting) Michele Clark

Borough Clerk
Michele Clark, RMC

Chief Financial Officer
Thomas P. Fallon, CPA, RMA

February 27, 2023

State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection
Green Acres Program
Mail Code 501-01
P.O. Box 420
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

Re: Statement of Support
Fireman's Park Improvements
2023 Green Acres Applications
Borough of Keyport, Monmouth County, NJ

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter has been prepared to offer our support for proposed recreation and bulkhead improvements at Fireman's Park. An improved waterfront walkway will provide recreational opportunities for residents throughout the Borough and Bayshore region.

The project will facilitate crucially needed improvements to an outdated section of the Borough's Waterfront, providing ADA accessibility, safety railings, landscaping, lighting, and an elevated walkway along the Keyport Harbor and Luppatatong Creek. The new bulkhead, promenade and stormwater improvements will also serve to elevate Fireman's Park above the range of recurrent tidal flooding which renders the park inaccessible during each spring high tide cycle. These improvements are aligned with the goals and objectives of the Green Acres program and will enhance the quality of life for the Borough's residents and visitors alike.

Fireman's Park represents the final section of the Borough's waterfront to see major improvements due to the significant costs involved with such an undertaking. The Borough plans on leveraging any Green Acres funds with a recently awarded FEMA Flood Mitigation Initiative grant received to reconstruct the bulkhead and promenade.

With past support, the Borough was able to undertake substantial improvements to the neighboring Waterfront Park, which has helped make Keyport a destination in the Bayshore Region, attracting new residents and return visitors. This renewed interest in the Waterfront has spurred numerous open space programs, including Yoga and Tai Chi classes, movie nights, kayak rentals, concerts, and fishing and sightseeing charters.

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We trust that continued recreation and infrastructure improvements at Fireman's Park will only strengthen Keyport's position in being able to provide public access as well as passive and active recreational opportunities for the benefit of all its residents. Please consider this letter in your decision making process.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kenneth DeGroat, Chairman
Keyport Environmental Commission