

The Green Way

KINGSTON GREENWAYS ASSOCIATION

A NEW JERSEY NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

www.kingstongreenways.org

Spring 2017 No. 29

With sadness, we learned that South Brunswick Township Mayor Frank Gambatese died on March 25th, 2017. He was a fine person, a tireless, dedicated civil servant, and a very good friend to Kingston. He played an instrumental role in the preservation of the Princeton Nursery Lands, as well as providing enthusiasm and support to our village and its organizations--Kingston Greenways, the Kingston Village Advisory Committee, Kingston Volunteer Fire Company, Friends of Princeton Nursery Lands, and Kingston Historical Society. We will be forever grateful for his affection, hard work, and commitment to our needs and dreams.

DIFFICULT DECISIONS AHEAD

KGA is facing a critical moment in its nineteen-year history. The number of our trustees has dwindled to five, and one of those five will be leaving the board in May after nineteen years of devoted service.

Four is not a sustainable number. Of the remaining trustees, three have served since KGA's inception in 1998, and two are presidents of other local groups. All of us are volunteers. If no new trustees are added to the board, KGA will be confronted with the options of either ceasing to exist, or merging with another like organization.

We need more people to carry on our mission, events, advocacy, and everyday tasks. Further, with our shrinking size, our efforts, focus, and knowledge must necessarily narrow--becoming less vigorous and less representative of the interests and concerns of Kingston with respect to its greenbelt.

Please think of taking a turn on our board. Call me at 609-750-1821, or email me at tari@kingstongreenways.org.

Tari Pantaleo, President

And now for the good news! You are invited to join us at these coming events:

EARTH DAY CLEANUPS—TWO SESSIONS

Rockingham and environs: SATURDAY, April 22, 2017—9 to 11 AM

Cleanup of the road in front of Rockingham, from just above the village of Kingston up to Route 518. Meet at the Rockingham parking lot on Laurel Avenue.

Ridge Road neighborhoods: SUNDAY, April 23, 2017—2 to 4 PM

We'll tidy up the areas adjacent to Railroad and Greenwood Avenues, Division Street, Mapleton Road and Ridge Road in Kingston. In addition to the inevitable tossed and blown litter, we will be removing some larger trash that is not only unsightly, but could also pose hazards to wildlife.

Parking for the event is along Railroad Avenue off Ridge Road. Grabbers, gloves, orange vests, and bags will be provided. For more information, please call 609-683-0483.

KGA ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM--"SPRING ACTIVITIES OF THE LENNI LENAPE AND THEIR VILLAGES IN KINGSTON"

Wednesday, May 17, 2017, 7:30 PM at the Kingston Firehouse



Jim Wade

Following a brief business meeting, Jim Wade, former archivist and researcher with the N.J. State Museum, will discuss the significance and importance of the Indian way of life during the spring season. Emphasis will be on the activities of community fish gathering, crop planting, gathering, hunting, and village life.

This presentation will also examine the local Indian villages that once existed in the Kingston region, and particular names of the Lenape people who once lived in the surrounding area. The program will include a short slide presentation and actual New Jersey Indian stone artifacts will be on display. The meeting is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served.

RECENT EVENTS

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Sunday, December 18, 2016

Karen Linder led the count, and made this report:

"We were light on counters this year so only managed to cover part of the territory that we usually do, but all in all, it was a fun day, and a fairly productive one. All told, we recorded 40 species, and 1364 birds - the usual suspects, with no new species recorded for the territory. Surprisingly, we had absolutely no yellow-rumped warblers, a bird that is normally pretty prevalent in our count, and relatively few white-throated sparrows. The fish crows were a single mob. American crows were really light this year. The eagle was a lone adult, flying close to and towards its nest. Glad to see that our pair is back for another year."

"Highlights of the count included a flurry of robins gorging on the bright red berries of bush honeysuckle, the very noisy mob of fish crows, a soggy, but very prominently perched, Coopers hawk, and a small flock of bluebirds, glistening turquoise in the morning sun. Later in the week, two KGA members had a lovely sighting of a Great Horned Owl. They heard it calling, went outside and, as they watched, it flew from the denser trees to perch on a branch where it was beautifully silhouetted. It preened, stretched and looked around for about 15 minutes before it took off to catch supper."

Thank you to those who participated in this annual event!

PROPOSED GAS COMPRESSOR STATION 206

Proposed Compressor Station 206 is planned as part of Williams Transco's Northeast Supply Enhancement project, which also includes plans for a pipeline under the Raritan Bay to New York. The proposed Station 206 would be a large and expandable 32,000 horsepower gas-powered facility of 10 acres sitting on 52 acres, currently owned by Trap Rock Industries in Franklin Township, just north of Kingston, New Jersey. The project needs the approval of the Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC) and several New Jersey permits to move forward. Compressor stations are needed every 50-100 miles along a pipeline to compress the natural gas and move it to the next destination.

The South Brunswick, Franklin, and Montgomery Township Councils have all passed resolutions against the proposal, which includes 23 miles of additional pipeline extending north and east under Raritan Bay. Several citizen groups have been formed to oppose the plan. Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-12th), and members of state and local governments have voiced bipartisan opposition to the project as well.

Major concerns for KGA include:

Air, Noise & Water Pollution: The long list of emissions associated with such a station includes formaldehyde, benzene, carbon monoxide (CO), carbon dioxide (CO₂), and methane (CH₄).

Health and environmental impacts from exposure to these emissions are documented, and periodic station “blow-downs” (natural gas releases) have been compared to the noise of jet engines. The proposed site is in an area of small farms, preserved land, streams, parks, and residential areas. A study of wind patterns has shown that toxins would be airborne for miles into surrounding areas.

Safety: Old pipelines might not sustain increased pressure and heat. Numerous explosions and fires have occurred in recent years at compressor stations, with devastating consequences. Currently available emergency resources in the neighborhood would not be adequate to respond to such events.

Active Blasting Near the Proposed Site: Residents and businesses around the Trap Rock Quarry feel the shaking during blasting; the compressor station and old over-burdened pipelines could be affected over time.

KGA is an advocate for open space preservation and the protection of our local lands, air, and water, and the life they support--human, plant, and animal. We remain concerned and therefore oppose this station and the dangers it poses unless they can be fully resolved. In addition, KGA strongly believes it is also critical to map a course to a future that moves away from fossil fuels and derives more and more power from renewable energy sources.

The Central Jersey Safe Energy Coalition and other local groups opposing Compressor Station 206 have joined with Rethink Energy NJ and the Sierra Club to encourage development of clean energy and reconsideration of current plans for additional pipelines in central New Jersey. These proposed pipelines would have a major negative impact on preserved open space and farmland. For more information or to get involved, please visit:

Central Jersey Safe Energy Coalition – <http://www.safer-nj.org>
 Rethink Energy NJ – www.RethinkEnergyNJ.org
 Residents Against Compressor Station 206 -- www.racs206.org

2016 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

SPECIES	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Snow Goose					
Canada Goose	605	173	108	546	1181
Mallard	10				
Great Blue Heron	3	2	1	2	1
Black Vulture	2				
Turkey Vulture	4	15	17	8	17
American Eagle	1				
Cooper's Hawk	1				
Red-tailed Hawk	2				
Ring-billed Gull	106				
Herring Gull	4				
Great Black-backed Gull					

Mourning Dove	44	9	1	11	20
Great Horned Owl	1				
Belted Kingfisher	1				
Red-bellied Woodpecker	9	11	11	13	11
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1				
Downy Woodpecker	4	5	9	9	18
Hairy Woodpecker					
Northern Flicker	9	6	4	3	11
Pileated Woodpecker					
Blue Jay	13	20	1	45	29
American Crow	5	44	122	13	126
Fish Crow	11				
Carolina Chickadee	10				
Black-capped Chickadee	4				
Chickadee SP	2	25	31	28	23
Tufted Titmouse	8	7	18	12	27
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2				
White-breasted Nuthatch	5	6	14	8	21
Brown Creeper	1				
Carolina Wren	4	3	7	18	10
Winter Wren					
Golden-crowned Kinglet					
Ruby-crowned Kinglet					
Eastern Bluebird	4				
Hermit Thrush					
American Robin	145	231	290	40	77
Grey Catbird					
Northern Mockingbird	4	5	3	3	5
European Starling	255	107	45	5	31
Cedar Waxwing	4				
Yellow-rumped Warbler					
American Tree Sparrow	3				
Field Sparrow	1				
Savannah Sparrow					
Song Sparrow	3	2	2	11	9
White-throated Sparrow	23	57	67	55	70
Chipping Sparrow					
Dark-eyed Junco	21	34	145	78	93
Northern Cardinal	12	8	10	17	23
House Finch	15	4	5	17	6
American Goldfinch	3	29	14	19	13
Species	40	36	33	31	43
Total Number	1365	1390	994	1128	2624

Spring is a time of renewal. Please renew your membership now with the enclosed remittance envelope. You may also go directly to our web site to join or renew online: <http://www.kingstongreenways.org/forme.html>

Thank you!