

**KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL  
COMMISSION  
Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 26, 2010**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Secretary Keller at 8:38 P.M.

**Notice Requirements**

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by publication of the notice in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News on December 24, 2009, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Express Times and the Star Ledger on December 16, 2009. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building and Post Office on December 16, 2009.

In order to ensure full public participation in this meeting, all members of this committee or Board, and also members of the public are requested to speak only when recognized by the Chair so that there is no simultaneous discussion or over talk, and further, all persons are requested to utilize the microphones which are provided for your use by the Township. Your cooperation is appreciated.

**Roll Call**

Present

Lois Voronin  
Elaine Niemann  
Gail Ashley (arrived 8:00PM)  
Nicole Voigt  
Cynthia Niciecki  
Sandra McNicol (arrived at 8:02PM)  
David Posey

Absent

Debbie Kratzer  
Joseph Zgurzynski  
Richard Abbott

**Nomination for Chairperson**

It was moved by Lois Voronin, second by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to nominate Debra Kratzer for the Environmental Commission Chairwoman for 2010.

<b>Roll Call Vote:</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>- L. Voronin, N. Voigt, C. Niciecki, David Posey</b>
	<b>Nay</b>	<b>- None</b>
	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>- None</b>
	<b>Absent</b>	<b>- D. Kratzer, G. Ashley, Sandy McNicol</b>

**Nomination for Vice Chairperson**

It was moved by C. Niciecki, second by Nicole Voigt and carried to nominate Lois Voronin for the Environmental Commission Co - Chairwoman for 2010.

**Roll Call Vote:**      **Aye**                - **L. Voronin, N. Voigt, C. Niciecki, David Posey**  
                             **Nay**                    - **None**  
                             **Abstain**              - **None**  
                             **Absent**                - **D. Kratzer, G. Ashley, Sandy McNicol**

**Motion and Approval of Scheduled Meeting Dates for 2010**

It was moved by C. Niciecki, second by D. Posey and carried to approve the following scheduled meeting dates and time for 2010.

<b>January 26, 2010</b>	<b>July 27, 2010</b>
<b>February 23, 2010</b>	<b>August 24, 2010</b>
<b>March 23, 2010</b>	<b>September 28, 2010</b>
<b>April 27, 2010</b>	<b>October 26, 2010</b>
<b>May 25, 2010</b>	<b>November 16, 2010</b>
<b>June 22, 2010</b>	<b>December 16, 2010</b>

Meetings to begin at 7:30 PM, on the four Tuesday of each month, unless noted otherwise.

**Roll Call Vote:**      **Aye**                - **L. Voronin, N. Voigt, C. Niciecki, David Posey**  
                             **Nay**                    - **None**  
                             **Abstain**              - **None**  
                             **Absent**                - **D. Kratzer, G. Ashley, Sandy McNicol**

**Motion and approval of local newspapers (Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News) for Advertisements**

It was moved by Lois Voronin, second by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to approve the local newspapers (Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News) for Advertisements for the year 2010 for the Environmental Commission.

**Roll Call Vote:**      **Aye**                - **L. Voronin, N. Voigt, C. Niciecki, David Posey**  
                             **Nay**                    - **None**  
                             **Abstain**              - **None**  
                             **Absent**                - **D. Kratzer, G. Ashley, Sandy McNicol**

3.

**Municipal Orientation by Committeewoman Elaine Niemann**

Mayor Niemann reviewed the following subjects:

Kingwood Township Municipal Orientation Program  
Environmental Commission 1/26/2010

- 1) Introductory remarks
  - a. General roles and responsibilities of volunteers
  - b. Resources available from the municipality, procedures to access them
  - c. Importance of communication
    - i. All written communication, including email, is a matter of public record
      1. Use of home computer for sensitive township-related communications is to be avoided
    - ii. Coordination with other volunteer boards/committees is ideal
  - d. Meetings are recorded, and members of the public may request copies of these recordings.
- 2) Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund DVD- “The Rights and Duties of a Volunteer in Local Government” – 12 minutes
- 3) Questions following the DVD
  - a. Complaint procedure handout, brief discussion of the township personnel handbook
  - b. What are punitive damages?
- 4) Concluding remarks
  - a. We recognize that the hard work done for the benefit of our community is often done when no one is looking and at times the work may seem unappreciated. We know what you do for us and we don't forget, even if you don't hear it from us!
  - b. The Township newsletter was launched last year and will have another issue released in March. Please be sure to send any material you may have for the newsletter to me.

Wrap up the material presented in the DVD

Mayor Niemann thanked everyone for listening to the DVD, and also what she reviewed.

**Approval of November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Minutes**

Motion and adoption of minutes of November 17, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission

4.

It was moved by Lois Voronin, second by Nicole Voigt and carried to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2009 Regular Meeting with the following corrections:

Page#3 Under Recycling Update – Third sentence in the paragraph:

As it appears uncorrected: She reported that she took a **5 gallon** container filled with batteries to the County Complex, and that there were several residents that dropped off computer accessories.

As it should appear: She reported that she took a **55 gallon** container filled with batteries to the County Complex, and that there were several residents that dropped off computer accessories.

<b>Roll Call Vote:</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>- L. Voronin, N. Voigt, C. Niciecki, G. Ashley, S. McNicol</b>
	<b>Nay</b>	<b>- None</b>
	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>- David Posey</b>
	<b>Absent</b>	<b>- D. Kratzer</b>

No quorum at the December 15, 2009 Meeting. Attached you will find brief notes.

Chairwoman Lois Voronin reviewed.

**Correspondence**

2010 Membership Dues – ANJEC

It was moved by Lois Voronin, second by Sandra McNicol and carried to approve to sign up the Environmental Commission for the 2010 Membership Dues for ANJEC for the amount of \$280.00 for 7 members, \$20.00 each for three additional members, and \$60.00 for the ANJEC Workshop Plan.

<b>Roll Call Vote:</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>- L. Voronin, N. Voigt, C. Niciecki, G. Ashley, S. McNicol, David Posey</b>
	<b>Nay</b>	<b>- None</b>
	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>- None</b>
	<b>Absent</b>	<b>- D. Kratzer</b>

Notice from ANJEC Dated November 24, 2009 re: Smart Growth Planning Grant Program / Notice from ANJEC - 2010 Smart Growth Planning Grants for Municipalities – Application Deadline Wed, March 31, 2010

The Commission members reviewed.

5.

Copy of Letter to the Township Committee re: Hunterdon Co. Recycling Plan

Vice Chairwoman Lois Voronin reviewed. Cynthia Niciecki noted that the Township has decided not to go with the County Services at this time.

Letter from County Department of Parks and Recreation – Invitation to Tenth Annual Earth Day Celebration – Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at Deer Path Park

Vice Chairwoman Lois Voronin reviewed.

**Reports**

Copy of Application for a General Permit Authorization from PS&S Integrating Design & Engineering (Large booklet of information is available for your review in the municipal building)

Vice Chairwoman Lois Voronin reviewed.

Quarterly Homeowner Well Sampling Results for September thru November 2009

Vice Chairwoman Lois Voronin reviewed. The Commission members compared the results from the last report of June, July and August with the September thru November of 2009 results. They noted that there were no real drastic changes.

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2009 - Certified Septic Totals

Sandra McNicol explained that she asked the Board of Health to send the septic totals so the Environmental Commission could review them and to keep the Township informed.

**Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District**

N/A

**Recycling Update/Coordinator Cynthia Niciecki**

Cynthia Niciecki thanked Lois Voronin for her help with the recycling in December. Cynthia noted that Jack Search helped in January. She explained that M & A had delivered a dumpster for metal to be recycled. She also noted that Recycling signs were ordered, delivered and they have now been installed on the roads. One was put up at the end of Route 519 and Union Road, and the other sign was put up at the entrance to the Recycling Center/Township Public Works Dept.

## 6.

### Volunteer needed for Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Sandra McNicol volunteered for recycling for February 13<sup>th</sup>. David Posey volunteered for the month of March.

### Old Business

#### Open Space & Recreation Kingwood Land Use Plan – Community Survey

Elaine Niemann noted that there was a very good response returned on the Community Survey. She explained that there will be a workshop at the Kingwood School on Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, in hopes that parents who are present during basketball practice will fill out a survey. There will be more information on the survey at next months meeting.

#### Sustainable Jersey Program – Update

Elaine Niemann noted that the Green Team met last Thursday. She explained that there are several things in the works. They are working on a project for Earth Day, which would be to have a t-shirt design contest for the children at the Kingwood School. Also another project they are working on is called “To Adopt a Road”. This is to have a map where people can adopt a road to pick up the trash around the Township. These are both in the planning stages at this time. Elaine Nieman also explained that the Township is working on the Rutgers Corporative Green Purchasing Program, and explained what that involves. There was also a brief discussion on clean community responsibilities and ideas. Elaine Nieman announced that the award for the bid on the Solar Panels at the Township Public Works will be chosen on February 10<sup>th</sup>, at the Township Committee meeting. She stated that this must be completed by the end of June.

Lois Voroin suggested that the Commission work on having pictures of the solar panels when the project is complete. She said this could be displayed at Community Day to show how the township is saving funds. Elaine Niemann noted that the sustainable green team should be reaching their certification this year. David Posey who is a member of the green team, noted that they should have collected 100 points. Elaine Niemann also explained some other ways to get points. One is to encourage no idling, for example the buses that are waiting for the practices and games to get done at the schools. The green team would like to get this under control.

#### Deer Overpopulation – Update

There was a lengthy discussion on deer hunting. Cynthia Niciecki announced if anyone is interested in having their property hunted to contact her husband and he will make the arrangements.

## 7.

There was also a discussion on the articles in the newspaper on anti-hunting.

### ANJEC EQ Challenge Game Has Arrived

Vice Chairwoman Lois Voronin reviewed and asked that the game be brought to the next months meeting.

### Block 7, Lot 14 – Silverton Property / Letter to NJDEP

N/A

### **New Business**

#### Objectives for 2010

New ideas will be discussed at the meeting in February.

#### Annual Report/Newsletter for 2009

Debbie Kratzer will be working on this for the Township mailing in March. Cynthia Niciecki will be writing an article on recycling for the newsletter to go out in March.

#### Rapidset Metal Buildings

#### Application for Preliminary Site Plan – Block 17, Lot 15 Galleria Construction, Inc.

The Commission members reviewed the application. Sandra McNicol explained about the rapidest metal buildings and the process if they were to pursue the idea.

#### Review Report from Environ of MEL – Comments

Gail Ashley gave an overview of the report and stated she would like more time to review it, and discuss with everyone next month. This will also give the Commission members more time to also look at the report.

### **Action Items:**

#### Environmental Commission Site Plan Review

Sandra McNicol stated that there were no site plan reviews, but that the only site plan is for the Herbel family business on Route 12. She noted that they will be installing solar panels to their building, and also putting up a new sign.

8.

Wastewater Management Plan

Elaine Niemann stated that this has been postponed again and the deadline date is now August of 2010. She explained that Franklin Township has adopted its own septic maintenance ordinance plan.

**Open Space**

Open Space Member Sandra McNicol reviews Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting of December 3, 2009 and January 7, 2010

Sandra McNicol reviewed the above Open Space/Ag meetings. She noted that the meetings will now begin at 7:00PM this year. She will be inviting Margaret Waldock from the Hunterdon Land Trust to the next Open Space/Ag meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss what they have planned for Kingwood Township.

**Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor**

N/A

**Other Matters**

Elaine Nieman announced that the Well Subcommittee meeting has been postponed till next month at 8:00PM at the Board of Health Meeting. This is scheduled the second Wednesday of the month. She explained that this is to inform the public about the amendments to the well ordinance. Elaine Niemann also explained that the Township Committee will be amending the Board of Health Ordinance to expand the amount of members. They will be adding (2) alternate members to the Board. She explained that they would like to do this by the month of March.

Sandra McNicol shared info on exhibits of new homes that are green designed. She also noted that the DRVC, which is the joint commission of N.J., Delaware, PA, and N.Y. has concluded that the floods were inevitable to happen and would have occurred no matter the circumstances.

Sandra McNicol also noted that she went to a program by the Delaware and Raritan Greenway, regarding plants in yards, and the positive natural things that happen by bring the native species into your yard. She stated that a man by the name of Douglas Tallamy wrote a book about bringing nature home.



9.

**Adjournment**

It was moved by Gail Ashley, second by Sandra McNicol and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:45PM. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Cynthia L. Keller,  
Environmental Commission  
Secretary**