

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
July 26, 2011
7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:45 P.M. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer called the meeting to order and read the following notice requirements.

Notice Requirements

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and published in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News on February 3, 2011, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Star Ledger, and the Express Times on February 1, 2011. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building and Post Office on February 1, 2011.

In order to ensure full public participation in this meeting, all members of this Commission, 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

Debbie Kratzer
Gail Ashley
Sandra McNicol
Elaine Niemann (7:58 arrived)
Cynthia Niciecki

Absent

Lois Voronin
Richard Abbott
Joe Zgurzynski
David Posey

Approval of the June 28, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion and Adoption of June 28, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission

These minutes will be put on the agenda for approval for the August meeting. There were not enough members to vote for the minutes to be approved at this meeting.

2.

Correspondence

Copy of Letter to the Environmental Commission from the Kingwood United Methodist Church re: MC Project No. 10001221A

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. Sandra McNicol stated that the site is located by the Lockatong management area. She noted that she hopes that the church members get more information about this solar project.

Reports

Copy of Applicant to Planning Board re: Effi Solar Energy Corp. Block 23, Lot 11 – MC Project No. 10001026A

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed and noted that this is a response from the Planning Board. Sandra McNicol noted that this is the Perrotti property. There was a discussion on several of the properties that solar farms are being constructed. Sandra McNicol stated that Effi Solar Energy Corp. will be coming to the Planning Board for a Determination of Completeness in August.

Letter of Interpretation Application – Block 40, Lots 8, 8.02, 8.03 – Galleria Homes, LLC

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. The Commission Members reviewed the area and the wetland areas of the property. Debbie Kratzer stated that she reviewed this application and determined that there are not a lot of wetlands in that area. Sandra McNicol noted that she is not sure what their plans are for subdividing.

Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District

N/A

Recycling Update/Coordinator Cynthia Niciecki

Cynthia Niciecki Recycling Report for July and August 2011

Kingwood Recycling Coordinator's Report

First I want to thank Debbie Kratzer for helping me on Recycling Day this month. We had a good turnout.

The Electronics Recycling Container was filled up and DonJon came and picked up the items collected. So far many residents are pleased to have this service available.

3.

I sent in the Quarterly Municipal Monitoring Report to the County. There was no SWAC Meeting this month. There was a discussion regarding the recycling program through Raritan Valley that is on the north side of the Township.

Volunteers for August 13, 2011 and September 10, 2011

The following members volunteered for recycling coverage:

Elaine Niemann – August 13, 2011

Gail Ashley – September 10, 2011

Old Business

Kingwood SEIA (Statement of Environmental Impact and Assessment) and Threatened and Endangered Ordinance Draft – Update

Sandra McNicol noted that she had requested that this be put on the Planning Board agenda and stated that unfortunately there were only five members present. She reviewed what was discussed at their meeting, and stated that there were concerns of the costs to be involved and whether this should be a minor or major subdivision. She stated that Richard Dodds, Chairman of the Planning Board suggested that this be placed on the next agenda to discuss this ordinance further when there are more members present.

Wind Energy Ordinance – Update

Sandra McNicol stated the Planning Board did vote for this ordinance to go to the Township Committee for an introduction, and will be up for a public hearing on August 4, 2011.

Eagle Scout Project Planned at Kingwood Park – Update

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer thanked Cindy Keller and Lois Voronin, and also the Township DPW for watering the native garden while she and her family and the Augustine's were away on vacation. There was a discussion as to whether the Environmental Commission should do some kind of display of the garden. Sandra McNicol suggested a dedication to be done for Keith Augustine and the garden he constructed for his Eagle Project. She stated that if he completes the project that maybe the Environmental Commission can have some kind of dedication with involved on Community Day.

4.

Driveway Procedures Update – Elaine Niemann

"N.J.A.C. 7:7A-2.7 Transition areas due to freshwater wetlands on adjacent property

Elaine Niemann noted that there is no update this month.

NJ Invasive Species Strike Team

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that the Environmental Commission has decided to send in their membership to the NJ Invasive Species Strike Team. Secretary Keller explained that there will be no money available to do this until November of this year.

Wastewater Management Plan - Update

Elaine Niemann noted that the County is applying for an extension, and that the State has backed away from it at this time due to funding issues. She stated that there is nothing pressing at this time to address the Township's septic maintenance ordinance.

New Business

N/A

Action Items

Environmental Commission Site Plan Reviews

Sandra McNicol and Elaine Niemann discussed the applications that have been brought to the Planning Board, and they noted that the applications that have been determined complete.

Sustainable Jersey Program – Update

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer stated that David Posey was going to follow up on idling. Elaine Niemann noted that it is a small group of working volunteers and they are trying to keep it going.

Composting

Gail Ashley asked the Commission Members, if they have ever done anything regarding composting. She noted that in the ANJEC Newsletter that there was an article about the rocket and the brut.

5.

She noted that this was part of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission who had taken this upon themselves to get it up and running. She noted that they have a high school that has a meal program that they generate food at that location. She noted that she contacted someone she knows at Rutgers, and asked how the program works. Gail Ashley noted that she gave her all the information on the rocket program. Gail Ashley stated that she will ask this woman to come and speak to Commission about the program if they are interested. She will look into finding out more information, whether she comes to speak to the commission or not. Sandra McNicol suggested that the Commission invite students from the local high school to see if they may be interested in getting involved with the program. Everyone thanked Gail Ashley for the new information.

MEL – Update

“Salt Plume Supplemental Remediation Investigation Report and Proposal for Classification Exception Area”

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that the Township has received the investigation report and that Lois Voronin took it home to read and will bring it back for Gail Ashley to review. Gail Ashley explained that there was to be a reaction from the N.J.D.E.P. on the report also included.

Maintenance of Trail on Township Property - Between School and Park

Debbie Kratzer noted she will contact the DPW in the fall regarding the trail maintenance.

Open Space

Sandra McNicol reviews the Open Space/Ag Advisory Committee of July 5th, 2011

Sandra McNicol stated it was a great day at the ribbon cutting at the Horseshoe Bend Park. She explained all the details of the ceremony and all the officials that were present. She stated that many members of the Open Space and Ag Committee helped out on that day. Sandra McNicol stated that as soon as they heard that the property was to be preserved, Richard Dodds of the Open Space Advisory Committee worked on the trails, and made a map that is currently on the Township website for everyone to print up and use to explore the property. There was a discussion on several other similar parks within the area and what they offer.

6.

Sandra McNicol noted that the Township may be able to get some good ideas from other parks and how they function. She expressed that it is all very exciting, and there is a lot to look forward to make this a great park. She noted that the Hines property recently preserved their property located off of Thatcher Road. She noted that all the properties that have applied for preservation throughout the County have been approved, which she stated that she saw in the local paper recently. She explained that five properties had applied, and four were chosen in Kingwood Township.

Community Day

There was a discussion on tables to be set up for the Environmental Commission, the Open Space/Ag Committees, and the Recycling Program. There was a discussion on what will be displayed on the tables. Debbie Kratzer noted that there will be a discount septic cleaning and well water testing program by the Environmental Commission for the residents of Kingwood. Sandra McNicol suggested getting quotes for inspections for septic systems for Community Day also to check if they need repairs or replacement by the septic company. The Commission Members asked Secretary Keller to sign them up for the spot at the park for the Community Day event.

Info on Recycling

Cynthia Niciecki stated that the N.J.D.E.P. just recently gave out the tonnage grants for 2009, which is two years behind. She stated that Kingwood Township received \$7,090.00 for the State Tonnage Grant for 2009. Everyone thanked Cynthia Niciecki for all her efforts.

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

N/A

Adjournment

It was moved by Gail Ashley, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:52p.m. **All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller,
Secretary