

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2011  
7:30 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:38P.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  
Lois Voronin  
Sandra McNicol  
Gail Ashley  
David Posey  
Cynthia Niciecki  
Elaine Niemann(arrived 7:42pm)

**Absent**

Richard Abbott  
Joseph Zgurzynski

**(1).**

**Approval of the July 26, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes (carried from last month)**

Motion and Adoption of July 26, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to approve the July 26, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission.

Comments: None

**Roll Call Vote:**

<b>Aye</b>	<b>- Kratzer, Ashley, McNicol, Niciecki</b>
<b>Nay</b>	<b>- None</b>
<b>Abstain</b>	<b>- Voronin, Posey</b>
<b>Absent</b>	<b>- None</b>

(2).

**Approval of the August 23, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Motion and Adoption of August 23, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by David Posey and carried to approve the August 23, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission.

Comments: None

<b>Roll Call Vote:</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>- Kratzer, Voronin, McNicol, Posey, Niciecki</b>
	<b>Nay</b>	<b>- None</b>
	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>- Ashley</b>
	<b>Absent</b>	<b>- None</b>

**Correspondence**

N/A

**Reports**

(3).

Notice from the N.J.D.E.P. Re: Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification Case# 11-09-14-1240-59 – Fire Station #2 621 Route 519

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(4).

MEL Chemicals – Quarterly Homeowner Well Sampling Results for June thru August 2011

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. There was a brief review of the samples. She stated that there are usually six or seven wells that are sampled, but it states that there are nine. There was a suggestion that it may be a good idea to have someone review the data of the reports. Elaine Niemann stated that it may be a good idea to get in touch with the high school to see if there are students who are looking for projects of this sort.

**Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District**

(5).

Notice from the Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District re: Galleria Homes – Tumble Falls Road - Block 40, Lot 8, 8.02 & 8.03 – Letter of Conditional Certification

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

**Recycling Update/Coordinator Cynthia Niciecki**

**(6).**

Cynthia Niciecki Recycling Report for September 2011

Volunteer Needed for October 8, 2011

Cynthia Niciecki read aloud the following report for September 2011:

**September 23, 2011 Kingwood Recycling Coordinator's Report**

The Metal Dumpster was switched last month and brought \$680.00 for the Recycling Account. This month's Recycling Day went well. Mayor Lubitz was there to help. I updated my Recycling Display and displayed it in my Recycling Booth at this year's Kingwood Community Day. There were a dozen Recycling Event Receptacles placed around the park for the people to use. I attended the SWAC Meeting at the County this month.

The Commission Members asked Cindy Niciecki how the electronics area was doing so far since it has started. She responded by stating that it is doing well and that it has been emptied one time so far. There was a discussion on the clothing collection. Cynthia Niciecki noted that she receives a report for the clothes collected at the Catholic Church, and also at Our Planet Aid Box located at the Kingwood Recycling location. Cynthia Niciecki noted that she will be sending in her quarterly report to the County for September.

Volunteered for the October 8<sup>th</sup>

Gail Ashley offered to volunteer at recycling for Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

**Old Business**

New Camera's for the Recycling Center – Update

Cynthia Niciecki noted that she has not heard any new updates regarding the installation of the new camera's at the township garage recycling area.

Community Day Review

The Commission reviewed the lists and amount of people that signed up for the discount septic and well water testing. They noted that there were not as many as last year that signed up.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed a handout, which is an informative page on "Root Systems of Prairie Plants", and "Plant Zone Schematic".

The Commission discussed the different displays at the tables at Community Day.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that the Open Space booth was a great combination along with the Environmental Commissions and the Recycling table at the event.

#### Grass for Solar Panels

Sandra McNicol explained different types of species of plants as a better choice to be planted next to the solar panels. She stated it would be nice to have a grass that would collect the excess water that runs off the panels. She stated that William Pandy, who is a member of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, suggested reed canary grass, which does very well here in this area. She explained that it spreads by seed head, works well with our soil, does not grow too tall, and feels this would benefit the wildlife. She explained that there may be a problem with this type of grass since a lot of the area is shaded. There was a diagram handed out by Debbie Kratzer to get an idea of what would be best for the soils and the area.

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

Sandra McNicol, and Elaine Niemann stated that this will not be on the Planning Boards agenda for a while, and that they have been busy discussing the reexamination of the master plan, and all the solar applicants coming in at this time. Elaine Niemann reviewed an update regarding the solar panels and the construction of them in the Township. She stated that the Township has not yet determined the taxes on the solar farms. She explained that the residents who live near the solar farms are concerned about several aspects of the panels so near their properties and how it will affect the value of the homes. Elaine Niemann brought a map to review with everyone that was discussed by the Planning Board involving the construction of the solar farms.

#### Driveway Procedures Update – Elaine Niemann

No new updates at this time.

#### **New Business**

##### Rocket Composter – Update from Gail Ashley

Gail Ashley reviewed a hand out that she obtained regarding the rocket composter. She explained that it was installed at a high school, which was a type of school project. She noted that she had contacted the company that makes them to ask them several questions and get more information. She asked what everyone's interest was, as far as, the idea for Kingwood Township's local schools. There was an idea of possibly setting a rocket composter at the high school in the local area. Gail Ashley feels it can be a great educational opportunity. Elaine Niemann suggested that it may be a good idea to contact the schools in the area and see what they think about the idea.

Cynthia Niciecki stated that she feels that it is not for this area, and that it would be better for towns that do not have open areas to put their compost. Elaine Niemann noted that it could possibly be a great project for the Sustainable Team to work on, and to apply for a grant. Gail Ashley stated that she will obtain more information on the rocket composter.

### **Action Items**

#### Environmental Commission Site Plan Reviews

No site plan reviews to discuss at this time.

#### Sustainable Jersey Program – Update

#### Idling Resolution

There was a discussion regarding the recent no idling resolution that was adopted at the September Township Committee meeting. David Posey stated that he would like a certified copy to accompany a letter from the Environmental Commission and sent to the Kingwood Township School. He would like to encourage this as a learning experience for the children.

#### NJ Invasive Species Strike Team

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that there is not a lot to discuss at this time.

#### MEL – Update

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

Gail Ashley reviewed what she examined in the report. She stated that she had contacted a man named Andrew Dillman from the N.J.D.E.P. to discuss with him his opinion of this report. She stated that they reviewed it then sent a letter back stating they do not accept the report and proposal. Gail Ashley explained what was determined by the N.J.D.E.P. She would like someone that is independent to look over the data. She suggested it may be worth it to call Steven Spade to see what he may know about this study. She suggested that it may even be a challenge for a college student or under graduate to research.

Cynthia Niciecki noted that she would like an individual from the N.J.D.E.P. to review the test results that were done over a year ago that the N.J.D.E.P. tested on several wells in the Township.

Maintenance of Trail on Township Property - Between School and Park

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer stated that she will set a date up with the Department of Public Works in the near future to discuss the trail.

Wastewater Management Plan – Update

Elaine Niemann noted that the State is unresponsive to the Counties request for an extension. She noted that is in a state of suspension right now, and that it will be awhile before a mandatory septic ordinance is in place for Kingwood.

Open Space

Open Space/Ag Advisory Committee Meeting Review of September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011 – Sandra McNicol

Sandra McNicol reviewed the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committees meeting of September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011. She stated that the Committees voted to proceed with the Trstenski property purchase on Kingwood Locktown Road. She stated that the Hunterdon Land Trust has preserved one piece of property, which is approximately 30 acres next to the property. She noted that there is also a fair amount of farmland preservation in the works and explained that there are five farms involved in the process.

Sandra McNicol handed out a flyer for the “Dedication of the Melnyk Farm” and stated that it is tomorrow, Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 5:30p.m. She explained that there will be a work session on the trails on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00a.m., for anyone that would like to help out at the new Horseshoe Bend Park. She stated that a fall hike is scheduled at the new park on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm, and that everyone is welcome.

SWAC

Elaine Niemann reviewed information she obtained from SWAC regarding a herbicide that landscapers use in the ground. She explained that the chemical is killing the trees and is now being taken off the shelves.

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 8:57PM. **All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Cynthia Keller  
Secretary**