

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
February 28, 2012
7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:35P.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 by publication of the notice in the Hunterdon County Democrat and Courier News on February 9, 2012 and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Star Ledger, and the Express Times on February 1, 2012. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building and Post Office on February 1, 2012.

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

Debbie Kratzer	Gail Ashley
David Posey	Joseph Zgurzynski
Elaine Niemann	Richard Abbott
Cynthia Niciecki	Lois Voronin
Sandra McNicol	
Timothy Cahalin	

The Commission Members all welcomed new member Timothy Cahalin to the Environmental Commission.

Secretary Keller administered the Oath of Office to Timothy Cahalin and David Posey.

Minutes

(1). Approval of the January 24, 2012 Environmental Commission Minutes

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that there were not enough members that were present at the current meeting, who were present at the January 24th, 2012 Environmental Commission meeting to approve the minutes. She noted that these will be put on agenda for the March meeting to be approved.

Correspondence

2.

(2). Rain Barrel Train the Trainer – March 7th, 2012 6:30pm-9:00pm. Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County Davidson Mill Pond Park, 42 Riva Ave. in South Brunswick, New Jersey

The Commission Members reviewed. It was noted that no one would be attending.

Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District

N/A

Reports

(3). Unregulated Heating Oil Tank Program – Block 36, Lot 4 95 Featherbed Ln.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the report and stated that this is just for our notification, and that there is nothing to be concerned about regarding this property.

(4). Freshwater Wetlands Letter of Interpretation/Line Verification – US Agrinova Block 41, Lots 9.01

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Old Business

Sustainable Jersey - Anti-Idling – Update

The Commission reviewed an update on the anti-idling concern, and the new resolution that was passed by the Township Committee to new member Timothy Cahalin. David Posey gave a brief update.

Rocket Composter – Update

Gail Ashley was not present this evening to review updates on the rocket composter.

MEL – Update

Elaine Niemann stated that she will gather more information for the Commission for next month's meeting. The Commission Members reviewed a background history of MEL to new Commission Member, Tim Cahalin.

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

3.

Sandra McNicol noted that this has not been discussed recently at a Planning Board meeting, but that she will request that this is added to their agenda for the March meeting.

Forest Harvest Bill - Update

Debbie Kratzer explained that last month the Commission voted to send a letter to our State representative, because there was a Bill regarding harvesting the forests. She stated that this may result in harvesting forests in public forests like Horseshoe Bend Park and the Lockatong Wildlife Management Area. She explained that she wrote a letter stating that the Commission opposes this Bill. Debbie Kratzer stated that she has not heard anything back from the State as of this date. Sandra McNicol stated that she had followed up and contacted New Jersey Audubon, and the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. She explained that they told her that they were working on it. She explained what had happened with the States Environmental Commission Committee and that there were so many people that was opposed and for the Bill. Since there was so much controversy, they were told to get together and resolve the problems, and that the committee will be coming together to vote on the Bill again on March 8th, 2012. Sandra McNicol has not seen anything new from the Legislation that would better address the issues. Tim Cahalin asked how many State forests there were in Kingwood. The Commission responded by stating, the Kugler Woods, Flag property, Kurkland property, and Horseshoe Bend Park. The Bill states that they would like to harvest the forests by making wood pellets from the trees. There was a very lengthy discussion regarding the State forests and the Commissions opinion. Sandra McNicol noted that she had additional information to share if anyone would like.

Driveway Ordinance – Update

Sandra McNicol explained that she and Elaine Niemann researched ordinances on line from other municipalities who have driveway ordinances and found that Delaware Township's ordinance addressed several of the concerns that we have in Kingwood. She read aloud several ideas to put into an ordinance for Kingwood. She asked the Commission Members of their opinion as to whether the drafted ordinance should be sent to the Planning Board for review. She suggested that the Environmental Commission review the draft ordinance before it is adopted by the Township Committee. Elaine Niemann explained what the Township's Department of Public Work's responsibilities are when a driveway is installed in the Township currently. Secretary Keller, explained the process of what happens when a property owner or builder comes in to obtain a driveway permit. Elaine Niemann explained that Kingwood does not have any regulations when putting in a driveway, which she stated sometimes cause drainage problems for many residents. Sandra McNicol explained several experiences she has seen with driveway construction.

4.

The Commission Members decided to meet as a subcommittee and work on a proposed driveway ordinance, and then send it on to the planning board to review.

End of the Year Report – Update

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer stated that she completed the 2011 End of Year Report. She reviewed the changes to the report with the Commission Members. She stated that she will send the report to ANJEC, and to the Township Committee.

Environmental Commission’s Goals for 2012

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the changes that she had made that were discussed by the Commission at last month’s meeting. Sandra McNicol had several suggestions, and ideas that could be considered.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by David Posey and carried to accept the 2012 Environmental Commission Goals for 2012.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- Kratzer, McNicol, Posey, Niciecki, Cahalin
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- None
	Absent	- Voronin, Ashley

New Business

Invasive Species Training/Workshop

(5). N.J. Invasive Species Strike Team – Flyer (Field Steward Position Available)

Debbie Kratzer asked if anyone would be interested in the workshop and training which is available. She explained that the Commission could do projects such as have a speaker, or plan a hike to learn more about how to identify invasive species. It was suggested to get together and have a meeting sometime on a weekend in the spring at around 4 or 5 o’clock p.m. The Commission Members noted that this may be a good opportunity to have a round table at a park with neighboring Environmental Commissions. Debbie Kratzer volunteered to look into a few dates and contact the other EC Commissions in the area to invite them. She reviewed the flyer about the job opening for a Field Steward.

ANJEC Workshop: Assessing Development Impacts: Regulatory Tools to Protect the Water in Your Community – Thursday, March 15, 2012 @ 7:00PM – 9:30PM in Lawrence Twp. Free, but Registration is Required. E-mail ANJEC or Call 973-539-7547

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

5.

Review Info On “Stormwater Management Report/Maps for Equestrian Village At Horseshoe Bend and Spring Hill Roads

The Commission Members reviewed the site plan maps of the Stormwater Management Report for the Equestrian Village on Horseshoe Bend Road. Sandra McNicol explained the property and the location of all the trails and creeks on the property. The Commission feels that it is very important to learn more about the wetland areas on the property. There were several suggestions as to how they would locate these areas. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer asked if anyone had experience with wetland determinations, or knew someone that could determine this type of inspection. There were questions that were raised as to what could be done.

Site Plan for Your Review – Boundary Line Adjustment – Gary and Christa Babosky Block 8, Lots 25.01 & 25.15

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She stated that no boundary line needed to be done on this property.

Open Space

Sandy McNicol – Reports on Open Space Advisory/Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting from February 7, 2011

Sandra McNicol noted that the Township has submitted a letter to the Green Acres noting that the Township is interested again this year in the program. There was a discussion on the properties that were being considered for preservation.

Recycling Update

Elaine Niemann noted that Cynthia Niciecki retired as the Township’s recycling Coordinator. She noted that Lynn Porter has been appointed as Recycling Coordinator for 2012. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the most updated list of recycling instructions that she prepared for the flyer that will go out in the spring mailing.

Elaine Niemann volunteered to work on Saturday, March 10th, at the Township’s recycling center. She announced that she will be working on the Township’s Newsletter “The Kingwood Chronicle” that will be going out in a few weeks. Cynthia Niciecki requested that an article on recycling be put into the newsletter. Sandy McNicol offered to write something up for the newsletter regarding the Environmental Commission.

DEP Rule Change - Press Release

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer briefly reviewed a press release regarding a proposed rule change for the threatened and endangered species that has been finally adopted. She read aloud several of the changes from the article.

6.

State Plan – Strategic Plan

Elaine Niemann reviewed the plans for the State Master Plan. She noted that formerly the State Master Plan included a ranking within the state of different type of communities as to their environmental sensitivity. She noted that various areas with growth will be funded based on various factors, many of areas will be reviewed. She stated that there are several concerns in the plan regarding clean water, clean air and many other topics. She explained that the State will except comments if anyone would like to send them.

Elaine Niemann noted that our new member of the Environmental Commission, Tim Cahalin will be taking over the sustainable program along with David Posey, and that there will be a meeting in the near future. Elaine Niemann feels we need someone to make the program active.

(6). Copy of Letter to the NJDEP Requesting Green Acres Funding

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

Adjournment

It was moved by Timothy Cahalin, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:22PM. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller,
Secretary