

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

July 24, 2012

7:00 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 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

Present

Deborah Kratzer
Sandra McNicol
David Posey
Cynthia Niciecki
Elaine Niemann
Timothy Cahalin

Absent

Lois Voronin
Gail Ashley
Richard Abbott
Joe Zgurzynski

Minutes

(1). Approval of the May 22, 2012 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Timothy Cahalin and carried to approve the meeting minutes of the May 22, 2012 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting.

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

Correspondence

- (2). 2012 ANJEC Environmental Congress – Saturday, October 20, 2012 “The Clean Water Act at 40 Keeping the Promise” 9:30am – 3:30pm

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed and noted that it is very expensive to attend.

- (3). Freshwater Wetlands Application – 200 Union Road, Bl 19, Lt 8

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the project that is being conducted at the Kingwood Park. She noted that this is a project that the New Jersey Water Supply is working on to put in stormwater controls at the park. She noted that they thought they had permission from the D.E.P. to to ahead with the project, but found out that they are in the 300’ buffer and cannot do it in that certain area. She also described another project they are working on, which will be a road side swale. She stated that this type of swale may end up in the park also.

Reports

- (4). Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification NJDEP Case Number: 12-06-28-1236-29 (495 Byram Kingwood Rd)

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

- (5). Application for Letter for Interpretation - 570 Route 519 Block 24, Lot 8.01

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. Sandra McNicol noted that this property is approximately 11 acres, along Rt. 519. Debbie Kratzer noted that there seems to be a lot of wetlands on this property.

- (6). Copy of Letter from the NJDEP re: Block 33 Lot 3.04 15 Barcroft Road

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that there was nothing sent to the Commission in there package for this report. Secretary Keller will resend to all the members to review and will be on the next month’s agenda to discuss.

Review from Last Month –

- (7). Analytical Report from QC Labs Samples from DEP Drinking Water – Park Pavilion

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed this report that was discussed last month. There were questions they had and reviewed with David Posey. David Posey reviewed what a few of the items meant.

- (8). Analytical Report from QC Labs from DEP – Outside Spigot at Resident Home - (Update from David Posey)

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Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer briefly reviewed what was discussed last month.

Old Business

Kingwood SEIA (Statement of Environmental Impact and Assessment) and Threatened and Endangered Ordinance Draft - Update from Township Planning Bd

Sandra McNicol noted that the Planning Board reviewed the draft ordinance. She stated that the Attorney for the Planning Board had a few questions, which she and he discussed. She explained Attorney Pierce formulated the ordinance with the recommendations and changes.

Invasive Species Strike Team Training 6/19 (Raindate 6/21) At Horseshoe Bend Park – Review

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer briefly reviewed the training at Horseshoe Bend Park. She stated that it was a nice discussion on how they work and their goals. Sandra McNicol and Elaine Niemann also were present and reviewed what they learned. Cynthia Niciecki asked for information on the training since she was unable to attend.

Invasive Species Field Stewards - 7/30, 7/31 and 8/1

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained the next item on invasive species in to be on a Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in July. She noted that two employees, which she will be joining them at the Horseshoe Bend Park, Idell Preserve, Kingwood Park path between the Lockatong Creek and also at the Dural Site on Route 29 along the river to review these areas for invasive species. She stated that everyone is invited to attend if they would like to come. She noted that the Commission members can go back to the areas and try to work on the species in their spare time.

Implementation of the Lockatong and Wickecheoke Creek Watersheds Plan – update

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that this was already discussed earlier in the meeting.

Action Items:

Sustainable Jersey – Update

Timothy Cahalin noted that the inventory that he has been working on is now complete. He stated that he would like to obtain points by the next Environmental Commission meeting. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer suggested that Timothy Cahalin put a bit of information in the fall newsletter regarding an update on Sustainable Jersey.

Recycling Update

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No report this month. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that she will be in contact with the Recycling Coordinator, Lynn Porter and ask her to give a brief update for the Environmental Commission meetings each month.

Rocket Composter – Update

Gail Ashley was not present at the meeting this evening. This will be discussed next month.

MEL – Update

No update this month.

Forest Harvest Bill - Update

No update this month.

Driveway Ordinance – Update

The Commission members stated that they will start working on this in September.

Kingwood Park Native Plant Rain Garden – Update

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that the native plant rain garden looks pretty good. She stated that it needs to be weeded and shredded leaves. There was a brief discussion on how the rain garden is being watered, and how a stormwater project to be considered. She explained that the picket fence needs repair in a few places, and that are funds left over to be spent on the garden, which was put into the Parks and Recreation's in and out account. She stated that if anyone would like to weed the garden, to please feel free and do so.

Horseshoe Bend Park – Update

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer viewed the following information from Richard Dodds:

(9). - (Updated Report for June - By Richard Dodds)

Horseshoe Bend Update:

July 9, 2012

June:

- Orange Trail completed and marked
- Orange/White bypass trail completed and marked.
- New Map created reflecting trail updates – posted on Kingwood Township website
- June 7 - Meeting on Hunting in Horseshoe Bend Park.
 - Representatives from Kingwood Township -Parks and Rec, Neighboring properties, Hunting groups and NJ Fish and Wildlife.

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- Draft policy and proposed rules – based on D&R Greenway Wildlife Management Guidelines
- Hunterdon Land Trust – Day on the Land – June 9
 - ~ 50 attendees
- June 29 – Meeting with NJ Parks and Forestry on Hunting in Horseshoe Bend Park
 - Met with Patricia Kalleser at Bulls Island – included were Jack and Cindy Niciecki, Tony Gioffre, Elaine Neiman, Tommy Flag (representative) and Richard Dodds to present draft policy and rules.

NJ Parks and Forestry would be interested in working with us if there was a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) in place.

Kingwood can do whatever it wants on its side.

If a MOU existed then there could be joint management of the hunting.

Meeting follow-up :

- There is a president for Towns managing hunting on state property – Per Larry Herrighty – NJ Fish and Wildlife via Patricia Kalleser
- The MOU is on Bob Cartica's (NJ Natural Lands Trust) desk. Moved off of desk on Monday, July 1.

Upcoming Events

- July 21, 2012 - Somerset Hills Kennel Club – Dog show and Canine Day in the Park

Action Items:

- Review Hunting Policy and Guidelines
- If adopted – request the Township Committee change the Kingwood Township Parks – Rules ordinance. Change to be made – Allowing deer hunting in Horseshoe Bend Park in accordance with the policy and management guidelines set forth by the Kingwood Township Parks and Recreation Commission.

Attached: HBP Wildlife Management Guidelines Draft 6.13.2012.pdf

Proposed Policy on Hunting in Horseshoe Bend Park Draft 6.13.2012.pdf

(10). - (Proposed Policy on Deer Hunting in Horseshoe Bend Park)

Proposed Policy on

Deer Hunting in Horseshoe Bend Park

DRAFT 6.13.2012

Kingwood Township – Horseshoe Bend Park has several areas that are open to the public and suitable for deer hunting. Enjoyment of the land and the safety of our visitors is a primary concern of Kingwood Township. The Kingwood Township – Parks and Recreation Commission allows deer hunting in Horseshoe Bend Park in order to provide for better land management. Kingwood Township hopes to enter into a long term relationship with the hunting community in order to be able to restore damaged ecosystems without fear that excessive deer browse will make it impossible for native plants to return to Horseshoe Bend Park.

The Parks and Recreation Commission will hold permit “lottery” for each of the deer hunting seasons: Fall Bow, Permit Bow, 6 Day Firearm, Permit Muzzleloader, Permit Shotgun, Winter Bow. Applications can be downloaded from the Townships website or picked up at the Township office from June 1 through August 31.

Legal advertisement of the “lottery” will be done on or before May 1 in at least two newspapers servicing Hunterdon County and on the Townships website.

A non-refundable \$5.00 application fee is charged for each lottery application. Each applicant can submit one application for each season. The chance of being awarded a permit in the lottery depends on the number of applicants and the number of permits allocated (permit quota). The permit quota will be based on the number of hunters that can safely hunt in a designated area.

Each successful lottery “winner” will be required to read and sign the Horseshoe Bend Park: Wildlife Management Guidelines and Hold Harmless Statement. (see the Horseshoe Bend Park: Wildlife Management Guidelines) and comply with standards set forth in this document.

No hunting is allowed on Sundays and all State deer hunting regulations apply. Specific season dates and bag limits for deer management zone 11 also apply. Hunters are encouraged to report nonpermitted individuals hunting within the park.

(11). - (Wildlife and Management Guidelines)

Kingwood Township – Horseshoe Bend Park: Wildlife Management Guidelines DRAFT 6.13.2012

Kingwood Township – Horseshoe Bend Park has several areas that are open to the public and suitable for deer hunting. Enjoyment of the land and the safety of our visitors is a primary concern of Kingwood Township. The Kingwood Township – Parks and Recreation Commission allows deer hunting in Horseshoe Bend Park in order to provide for better land management. Kingwood Township hopes to enter into a long term relationship with the hunting community in order to be able to restore damaged ecosystems without fear that excessive deer browse will make it impossible for native plants to return to Horseshoe Bend Park.

In exchange for deer hunting privileges the individual(s) will:

1. Each hunter will be required to sign the “hold harmless” statement below and return an original signed copy to Kingwood Township. Each hunter must also be familiar with the terms below.
2. Each hunter must carry a minimum of \$1,000,000 in liability insurance. Copies of the insurance certificates are to be provided to Kingwood Township and it will be kept on file. Hunters must be licensed and meet all federal, state, county and municipal laws governing their actions.
3. Each hunter will provide to Kingwood Township – Parks and Recreation Commission the make and model of his or her vehicle, and the license plate number.
4. Kingwood Township – Parks and Recreation Commission provides access to hunters in order to address wildlife management by reducing the number of deer on the property at Horseshoe Bend Park. The individual hunter will report the results of his or her hunting efforts on or before April 1st. Reporting shall include the tag number(s) of the harvested deer.

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5. In addition to the annual fee, (which will be determined annually by the Kingwood Township) Kingwood Township – Parks and Recreation Commission requires all hunters to attend a mandatory meeting to discuss hunting in the park and assist in posting the property. The right to hunt may be cancelled if the hunter fails to attend the meeting and participate in posting the property.

6. All State deer hunting regulations apply. Specific season dates and bag limits for deer management zone 11 also apply. Kingwood Township – Parks and Recreation Commission encourages hunters on our properties to harvest three antlerless deer for every buck. If Kingwood Township – Parks and Recreation Commission personnel determine that hunters are not harvesting enough deer to meet our needs for land restoration the hunter may not be invited back for the next season.

7. Special regulations:

a. The greater the number of antlerless deer taken by a group (or individual) the greater the likelihood of being chosen for next year's management program.

b. Hunting must be from portable tree stands. No permanent or fixed tree stands may be installed. Each stand must clearly display the name, address, telephone number and hunting license number of the hunter. The hunting stands must be removed or moved if requested by Kingwood Township.

c. All motorized vehicles are restricted to public roads and designated parking areas and must clearly display the Kingwood Township – Parks and Recreation Commission – Horseshoe Bend Park permit. Deer are not to be removed from the property by motorized vehicles except on public roads.

d. Target practice is prohibited.

e. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while on the property is prohibited.

f. Violation of any conditions herein or any applicable state law or regulation will result in loss of hunting privileges on the property. If this occurs there will be no refund of any fees paid by the hunter. A violation by any individual hunter within a group may result in loss of hunting privileges for the entire group.

This agreement must be formally renewed each year and can be cancelled without cause by Kingwood Township. Kingwood Township – Parks and Recreation Commission is, however, committed to maintaining a stable, long-term relationship with the hunting community.

HOLD HARMLESS STATEMENT:

In consideration for the opportunity to hunt on land owned and managed by Kingwood Township, I agree to abide by the terms listed above. Further, I hereby release and hold harmless Kingwood Township, officers, employees and agents from and against any and all loss, costs, and damages to person or property as a result of my hunting and related activities at Horseshoe Bend Park.

Signature _____ **Date** _____
Print Name _____

There was a lengthy discussion on the hunting at Horseshoe Bend Park. Elaine Niemann reviewed the Memorandum of Agreement , which has been approved for several green acre properties between the State and the Township.

Site Plan Review

Syncarph Alethea II LLC. Block 21, Lot 1 Solar Farm – Review

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that the Planning Board has already approved this application. Sandra McNicol read aloud an e-mail she received along with all the planning board members regarding open land and solar farms from the legislation and Governor Christy’s office.

New Business

Community Day – Discuss Preparations

- (12). Community Day Septic Cleaning Discount – Quote
- (13). Flyer to Residents re: Discount Septic Cleaning and Water Tests

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the discount septic and water testing sheet to be sent out to the residents. She stated that she will be in contact with Lois Voronin to see if she has obtained the list of prices for the water tests from Q.C. Labs. She suggested having a few native plants for sale at the Environmental Commission table. The Commission members discussed a few ideas they have for their tables on Community Day. Debbie Katzer asked if anyone was interested in doing a fall cleanup for the streams and creeks. It was suggested to possible do a cleanup in November or March, when people have more time. Debbie Kratzer noted that there is always Earth Day to consider.

Copy of Letter from Delaware Township - Bulls Island State Park – Trees

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that a letter was just received from Delaware Township regarding Bulls Island State Park.

There was a lengthy discussion on the trees that are considered to be removed from the State park. Delaware Township feels that instead of cutting down all the trees, that it should be left a natural area and fence off the area where the dangerous trees are located. The Commission Members all gave their opinion as to what should be done. David Posey suggested that if the Commission really wants to pursue this, that they should ask for a list of the trees and the areas they will be taken down. Elaine Niemann noted that the Township Committee will be reviewing this at their meeting the beginning of August.

Open Space

Sandy McNicol – Reports on Open Space Advisory/Agriculture Advisory Committee meetings - June 5, 2012 and July 10, 2012

Sandra McNicol noted that the Committees did not meet in the month of June. She noted that the Open Space and Ag Committees have worked on their budget and the Committees have a much better idea as to where they are at financially. She noted that they have a limited amount of funds to continue to preserve land from our open space tax, but she stated that we do have green acres funds which are over \$700,000 that the township will be allowed to preserve properties. She stated that they are working on several properties at this time. She explained that one is the Decker property, the church property on Horseshoe Bend and the Covelesky farm. She stated that those properties will be paid for with the \$700,000 and matched by non-profit organizations. She noted that they are working on a bond that they purchased in the past, which will be over 15 years.

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

It was moved by David Posey, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:33PM. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller,
Secretary