

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
October 23, 2012
7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:37P.M. Vice Chairwoman Lois Voronin called the meeting to order and read the following notice requirements. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer was absent.

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

Lois Voronin
Gail Ashley
Sandra McNicol
David Posey
Cynthia Niciecki
Elaine Niemann
Timothy Cahalin

Absent

Debbie Kratzer
Richard Abbott
Joe Zgurzynski

Minutes

- (1). Approval of the September 25, 2012 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by David Posey and carried to approve the September 25, 2012 Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes with the following correction.

First Page – Under Minutes – In the Motion - Correction on name : Cynthia Nicieck, should be Cynthia Niciecki.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye	- Voronin, Ashley, McNicol, Posey Niciecki, Cahalin
Nay	- None
Abstain	- None
Absent	- Kratzer

2.

Correspondence

Sustainable Land Use

Vice Chairwoman Lois Voronin reviewed the correspondence. The Commission Members commented that this was a very good article regarding solar farms. Sandra McNicol noted that the Planning Board may want to revisit and review the current solar ordinance.

Reports

Old Business

Ordinance No.17-15-2012 To Amend and Supplement The Land use Regulations, Specifically “Subdivision of Land, Chapter 115”, and “Zoning, Chapter 132” of the General Ordinances of the Township Pertaining to Threatened and Endangered Species and Environmental Impact Assessment - Update

There was a discussion regarding the Ordinance that was introduced. It was noted that it will be addressed at the Township Committee meeting on November 1st, 2012.

Action Items:

Sustainable Jersey – Update

Tim Cahalin noted that there are no updates this month.

Recycling Update

The Commission Members reviewed the Recycling Report from Lynn Porter, which was handed out for each member. Cynthia Niciecki stated that a representative from Don Jon recycling called her to congratulate her for starting the great recycling program and stated that Kingwood was third from the top for municipalities with the highest amount of recycling. Cynthia Niciecki explained how the recycling tonnage works.

Recycling Volunteer - November 10th, 2012 9 – 12:00pm

Sandra McNicol and Elaine Niemann volunteered to help out at recycling for November 10th, 2012 from 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m.

MEL – Update

Elaine Niemann stated that she spoke to a representative named Richard Portuese from MEL and noted that they will not be able to give the township electronic reports, but would be willing to come speak to the Commission. She stated that he would like an agenda so they will have an idea of what the Commission would like to speak to them about to be prepared.

3.

There was a discussion on the project that will be done. Elaine Niemann explained that the work will need to be collected from hard copies and entered into a spread sheet. Gail Ashley explained a little bit about the student that is interested in doing this project on the well data and ground water flow, which will show where the water is flowing and how it shows up in the resident's wells. She explained that the student is very enthusiastic and excited about the project. Gail Ashley stated that hopefully this will give us an idea of how fast the bloom is flowing. Lois Voronin explained what was found in the wells from years ago. She stated that she would like a graph of the concentration of the wells, which are on site and off site. The Commission would like to invite representatives from MEL here to an Environmental Commission meeting to go over their remediation plan with them. Lois Voronin made some suggestions that the Commission could talk to them about. Elaine Niemann will contact MEL to meet here at a regular monthly meeting to speak to the Commission.

Driveway Ordinance – Update

Sandra McNicol and Elaine Niemann spoke to the township's Construction Official Mark Fornaciari regarding information they are gathering for a driveway ordinance. They explained that they received feedback from him regarding how to go about wording the ordinance. They plan to also speak to Mark Petro, DPW Supervisor also for his opinion and ideas.

Kingwood Park Native Plant Rain Garden – Update

The Commission stated that the garden will be fine until next springtime.

Horseshoe Bend Park – Update

Sandra McNicol stated that she met with Richard Dodds along with a representative from the (NRCS) Natural Resource Conservation Service, Craig Chianese who will be giving the township a plan for managing the fields regarding endangered species. She explained that this is a free service that Cynthia Niciecki had arranged for the township to get. She stated that he will be able to help the township out with this plan to manage the fields. The township will not have to spend a lot of money to manage the fields. She stated that some of the fields already have some native grasses in them. She stated that the hunting is five seasons at the Horseshoe Bend Park, which are fall bow, winter bow, permit bow, muzzleloader, and shotgun. She explained that only a certain amount of hunters are permitted to hunt. There was a discussion on the trail ride, which was on Saturday, September 29th. A resident of the township named Meg Sleeper organized the event for the trail ride and charged \$25.00 for each rider and donated a good portion of the funds to the Horseshoe Bend Park. Sandra McNicol explained that there was a dog coursing club event on the same day. Richard Dodds had a hike with emergency responders so that they could be prepared if necessary emergencies happen at the park. Cheerleaders are using the large indoor building at the park on Thursday nights for their practices. Sandra McNicol noted that there has been a white red tail hawk seen at the Horseshoe Bend Park.

4.

(2). Info From The New Jersey Department of Agriculture – Invasive Species

Vice Chairwoman Lois Voronin reviewed.

Site Plan Review

(3). Preliminary Site Plan, Final Site Plan for Block 21 Lot 1 – Grid Connected Solar Farm, Syncarpha Alethea II, LLC

Vice Chairwoman Lois Voronin reviewed. Sandra McNicol noted that the Planning Board has already reviewed this plan and that there is nothing to review at this time.

New Business

(4). Discuss Budget Request for 2013 for the Environmental Commission

It was moved by Cynthia Niciecki, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to approve to request \$1000.00 for the 2013 Budget Request for the Environmental Commission.

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

Discount Septic Cleaning and Water Tests – Extra Fee Charged to Customers and Discuss Ideas for Next Year

Secretary Keller explained what the complaints were about. She stated that some of the fees were not listed on the sheet for the water tests and several residents complained that they were charged extra for them coming out to collect the water for fuel charges.

There was a discussion regarding having another test available through the school for arsenic.

Discuss the Transfer Station - Not Closing

Secretary Keller explained that someone had mentioned the transfer station was closing. She found out from the recycling coordinator that it is not closing and that they have a lease at that location until 2014.

Open Space

Sandy McNicol – Review of the October 2, 2012 Open Space and Ag Meeting

5.

Sandra McNicol explained that the Decker property near Kingwood Locktown Road, it was very difficult to preserve . She explained that the state will be handling the property. She explained that the Hunterdon Land Trust is doing their best to preserve properties in the township. Liz Schmid continues to work as our preservation coordinator for the township. The Division of Fish and Wildlife is making it difficult for the farmers. There is some concern and they would like the Open Space Committee to help them out by speaking to someone from the Division of Fish and Wildlife. She explained that the farmers stated that the Fish and Wildlife would like to let the land grow in so more deer are available to hunt. The fish and wildlife are trying to create habitat for the wildlife.

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

N/A

Adjournment

It was moved by Gail Ashley, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:45p.m. **All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

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

