

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 24, 2013  
7:30 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:37P.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 the Courier News on January 31, 2013, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Express Times and the Star Ledger on January 23, 2013. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building in January 23, 2013.**

**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**

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Debbie Kratzer	Willard Reasoner
Lois Voronin	Joe Zgurzynski
Sandra McNicol	Timothy Cahalin
Gail Ashley	
David Posey	
Cynthia Niciecki	
Diana Haywood	

**Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor**

Committeeman Dodds came to speak to the Commission regarding the Kugler Woods, which he stated is located along Route 29. He gave a brief review of the history of the property, which was the former Trap Rock Quarry. He explained that the state purchased it after the quarry was no longer in business. He explained that approximately two years ago the township entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Land Trust and the state to do management of the property. He noted that the property is 200 acres with a beautiful water falls on it, and stated it is a nice place to take a hike.

2.

He explained since the township entered the MOA, there has been work done on the property. He noted that the MOA had to be in place before making a trail along the falls. He explained that he along with the local scouts worked on the trail, which turned out really nice. He noted that a round trip hike to the falls is approximately a quarter of a mile. He explained that the trail is made of reinforced concrete. He explained that the parks in Kingwood are under the Parks and Recreation Committee, but that this park is under the State of New Jersey. Richard Dodds asked the Environmental Commission if they would be interested in working on the trails and the property to improve the park. He noted that it is up to the Commission as to how much they would like to do on that property. He explained that this would be a stewardship position for the Commission, which would be to coordinate to maintain the property. He gave the Commission several ideas and one of them was to form a clean-up day by inviting volunteers to clean-up any brush or stick on the property. He also noted that if they are interested in working on the trails, he would be more than happy to help them out. He told everyone to think about the property and if they would be interested in leading the stewardship. He explained that it meets up with another piece of property nearby that the state is looking into purchasing. He explained that there is a flyer of this property on the Hunterdon Land Trust website. He stated that the State D.O.T. is working on revamping the parking lot. Sandra McNicol mentioned that the trail along the Lockatong was in poor shape. Committeeman Dodds noted that the township has an agreement with New Jersey State Fish and Wildlife to maintain that property.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to agree to take over the stewardship of the Kugler Woods.

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

There was a discussion on the Horseshoe Bend Park and all the new events that have been scheduled there this year. Committeeman Dodds noted that there is a mystery person who is building benches around the park and they are making them out of trees.

### **Minutes**

#### **(1). Approval of August 27, 2013 Environmental Commission Regular Minutes**

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to approve the August 27, 2013 regular meeting minutes of the Environmental Commission.

Comments: There were a few corrections that had been amended before the meeting.

3.

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

### **Correspondence**

#### **(2). Rare Butterflies Found in Horseshoe Bend Park**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that she made this flyer using photos from the New Jersey Butterfly Club. She explained each butterfly and reviewed facts about each one over the overhead projector. She stated that Horseshoe Bend Park is so special because the Club found more varieties of species there than at any other park in the state. She explained that she and her son went and learned a lot that day at the park.

Lois Voronin expressed that she saw several different types of butterflies in the dog leash free area at the Horseshoe Bend Park also.

### **Notice of upcoming meetings:**

#### **(3). New Jersey Happenings – The Paraprofessionals Watershed Restoration Training Program at Duke Farms Orientation Center on Thursday, October 3**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the training program. She noted that this is available to anyone that would like to attend.

### **Recycling News and Update**

#### **Volunteer for Recycling Saturday, October 12, 2013**

Sandra McNicol noted that she and Diana Haywood attended the SWAC meeting at the County. She noted that Raritan Valley charges \$140.00 for each recycling container four times a month. She explained that she set up a table on Community Day giving out information on recycling, open space, farmland preservation and also gave out bags for residents to keep in their car for trash. She explained that she ordered several hundred bags and gave them out hoping to encourage people not to litter. Sandra McNicol noted that the left over bags will go to the school and given out to all the students, teachers and staff. There was a very long discussion on recycling and how expensive it has become. She explained that she worked on the tonnage report and feels that there were a lot of businesses that were not getting the numbers to her on time. Sandra McNicol noted that she completed the tonnage report and it was approved by Allen Dilly, Recycling Coordinator for Franklin Township in Hunterdon County.

4.

### **Reports**

#### **(4). Letter of Interpretation – Block 38, Lot 28**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that she worked on a map of this property to review with the Commission. She explained the property over the overhead projector.

### **Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District**

N/A

### **Old Business**

#### **Delaware River Tubing**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer asked if anyone was at the most recent meeting for the Board of Adjustment. Sandra McNicol explained that she attended the meeting and that there were presentations by the professionals and the surrounding neighbors.

#### **Filter Strip Planting at Kingwood Park**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that she had no update regarding the filter strip planting at this time.

### **Action Items:**

#### **Sustainable Jersey – Update**

No update at this time.

#### **MEL – Update**

Gail Ashley noted that she spoke to a representative from Environ of Princeton NJ, to meet with the Environmental Commission. She stated that the representative recommended that a list of comments and questions be made for the Commissioners to ask when they meet. Gail Ashley noted that she will receive a report from them to share with the Commission beforehand. She will be in touch with everyone on a date that would be best for the representatives and the Environmental Commission.

#### **Horseshoe Bend Park – Update**

This was already discussed earlier in the meeting with Richard Dodds.

### **New Business**

Review Community Day – September 21, 2013

#### **Well Water Discount Testing and Discount Septic Program - Update**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer thanked everyone that helped out on Community Day. There was a discussion regarding not many residents signing up this year for the discount programs.

5.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that the township did get stormwater points for having the township storm water information out for the public to take. It was suggested that next year either a small notice be sent out in the yearly mailing or an advertisement to be put in the local newspaper regarding the septic and water discount testing program. Secretary Keller noted that the program will available until the end of September.

### **Site Plan Review**

#### **Conditional Use Site Plan – Block 17, Lot 8**

##### **(5). Application for Conditional Use Approval**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that this will be reviewed at the next Planning Board Meeting. She reviewed the application and the map of the property. She explained that they are proposing to change the use of the property. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer suggested that a memo with the Environmental Commission's concerns regarding this property be written and forwarded to the planning Board. There was a question as to whether there was a letter of interpretation done on this property. Secretary Keller will look to see if there was one submitted to the township.

##### **(6). Photos - Block 17, Lot 8**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the photos for Block 17, Lot 8 over the overhead projector. There was a discussion regarding the wetland areas of the property.

### **Open Space**

#### **Sandy McNicol – Update on Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting of September 3, 2013.**

Sandra McNicol reviewed an updated map of the preserved properties in the township. She stated the township and the Hunterdon Land Trust are working together to preserve a property on Horseshoe Bend Road called the Church property. She explained that they are looking for more money to purchase the property. She noted that the township will be using open space funds to put towards the purchase of this property along with funds from the Hunterdon Land Trust and other sources.

### **Adjournment**

It was moved by Lois Voronin, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:46P.M. All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller  
Secretary

