

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REORGANIZATION AND REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 28, 2014
7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Reorganization Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:33P.M. Secretary Cynthia Keller 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 2, 2014, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Express Times and the Star Ledger on December 26, 2013. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on December 26, 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

Present

Debbie Kratzer
Lois Voronin
Gail Ashley
Sandra McNicol
David Posey
Cynthia Niciecki
Diana Haywood
Timothy Cahalin
Willard Reasoner

Absent

Joe Zgurzynski

Nomination for Chairperson

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to nominate Debbie Kratzer Chairwoman for the Environmental Commission for 2014.

2.

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

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer took over the meeting at this time.

Nomination for Vice Chairperson

It was moved by Lois Voronin, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to nominate David Posey Vice Chairman for the Environmental Commission for 2014.

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

Motion and Approval of Scheduled Meeting Dates for 2014

January 28, 2014	June 24, 2014	November 18, 2014
February 25, 2014	July 22, 2014	December 16, 2014
March 25, 2014	August 26, 2014	
April 22, 2014	September 23, 2014	

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to approve the Scheduled Meeting Dates for 2014 for the Environmental Commission.

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

Motion and approval of local newspapers (Hunterdon County Democrat and Courier News) for advertisements

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to approve the local newspapers (Hunterdon County Democrat and Courier News) for advertisements.

3.

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

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

There were no public comments.

Minutes

(1). Approval of November 19, 2013 Environmental Commission Regular Minutes

It was moved by Gail Ashley, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to approve the November 19, 2013 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes with the following corrections:

Comments/Corrections: Page #5 Item (10) – Second sentence reads – This ordinance will be finally adopted at the December 5, 2013 Township Committee Meeting. Correction: Should be written: **(This ordinance will be presented for consideration for final adoption at the December 5, 2014 Township Committee Meeting.)**

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

Correspondence

(2). New Jersey Happenings Rutgers Environ Steward Training Program

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(3). New Jersey Happenings Grants to Strengthen Coastal Wetlands

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(4). E-mail From Lois Voronin Re: DEP Conservation Officers Arrest Two for Destroying \ Agriculture Property in State Lands

4.

"Lois Voronin explained the NJDEP news release, titled, "DEP conservation officers arrest two for destroying agricultural property on state lands. Off roading in state parks and wildlife areas is illegal." The incident occurred in Upper Freehold Township. There was a discussion about seeing ATVs on pick-up trucks at Horseshoe Bend Park, although they were not seen in use at the park. There was a discussion about Kingwood's existing ordinance 94-3, which prohibits driving vehicles or ATVs on areas other than parking areas. Violators can be penalized not to exceed \$1,000, and/or up to 90 days jail and/or up to 90 days community service, at the discretion of the court. It was pointed out that, to report any violation on state lands, the phone number is 1-877-WARNDEP."

Notice of upcoming meetings:

A few topics were discussed under correspondence.

Recycling News and Update

Update from Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol

(5). Recycling Tonnage Report for 2012

Sandra McNicol reviewed the recycling tonnage report for 2012. She thanked Debbie Kratzer for helping out in December and Lois Voronin for helping in January. She noted that she will be sending out all the letters to businesses in the township to obtain their tonnage reports. She reported that all is going well at the recycling depot. Lois Voronin asked how the electronic collection was going. Sandra McNicol noted that there has been quite a bit dropped off recently. There was a brief discussion on the enclosure for the recycling depot. Sandra McNicol stated that this has been reviewed with the Township Committee and it has not been decided at this time what will be purchased for the covering of the recycling bins.

(6). Clean Communities Report for 2011

Sandra McNicol reviewed the clean communities report for 2011.

(7). Clean Communities Report for 2012

Sandra McNicol reviewed the clean communities report for 2012.

Recycling Depot Volunteer for Saturday, February 8th, 2014 9:00a.m. – 12:00noon

Willard Reasoner offered to volunteer for the recycling depot duty for Saturday, February 8, 2014.

5.

Timothy Cahalin asked by there is a need for someone to be at the depot on the second Saturday of each month. Sandra McNicol explained that it was started years ago to help out the public by answering any questions and helping them unload their vehicles when needed. She stated that it was also to keep an eye on the area so that there is control over the dumpsters, and to prevent theft. She noted that there is always someone from the DPW present during the daytime hours while the depot is open to watch over the area.

Reports

(8). Civil Dynamics, Inc. Notice of Application Submitted by NJDEP re: Safety Improvements to Bulls's Island Recreation Area

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(9). NJDEP-Freshwater Wetlands General Permit – Extension – Block 25, Lots 7 & 7.15

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the wetland areas of the property.

The Commission Members reviewed the map of both lots.

(10). Map of Block 25, Lot 7 Wetlands

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the map of Block 25, Lot 7 over the projector to everyone.

(11). NJDEP-Freshwater Wetlands LOT – Block 39, Lots 6.01 & 6.02

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed and noted these lots are located on Tumble Idell Road.

(12). Map of Block 39, Lot 6.01 Wetlands

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(13). NJDEP-Freshwater Wetlands – Block 39, Lot 15.02 – Line Verification

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She noted that most of the property is entirely wetlands except for a small part along the back near the property line.

(13a). Map of Block 39, Lot 15.02

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the map over the projector for everyone.

6.

(14). NJDEP- Freshwater Wetlands LOT – Block 33, Lot 14.06 – Line Verification

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(14a). Map of Block 33, Lot 14.06

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the map over the projector for everyone.

(15). NJDEP- LOT – Footprint of Disturbance – Block 19, lot 8

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. The Commission reviewed the map of the Kingwood Park area that was prepared by a representative from the County Soil Conservation. She reviewed the area where the swale project will be worked on to catch storm water runoff.

(15a). Map of Block 19, Lot 8

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the property on the overhead projector.

(16). Notice from Maser Consulting Re: Freshwater Wetlands and Flood Hazard Area Application Notice to Neighboring Landowners

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(17). Notice from the NJDEP - Re: Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification 125 Federal Twist Road

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(18). Copy of Notice from NJDEP to re: Termination of Memorandum of Agreement – Bl 37, Lt 16

David Posey reviewed the notice from the NJDEP and the Memorandum of Agreement the state had with the residents who received notices to clean up. He explained that all the people that received a copy of the MOA must comply with all the rules and regulation, and that the new program seemed to get some business taken care of.

Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District

N/A

Old Business

7.

(19). Copy of Ordinance No. 17-20-2013 Amending Chapter 94 "Open Space and Recreation Areas"

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She explained that this is what the Environmental Commission requested. This is an ordinance to update the rules of the open space areas of the parks in Kingwood. Debbie Kratzer reviewed the rules, which did not exist in the prior ordinance.

Action Items:

Sustainable Jersey – Update

Timothy Cahalin explained what he and Diana Haywood reviewed when they met to discuss what needs to be considered to obtain sustainable jersey points. He stated that he would like to talk about the knowledge of the program with the EC members. He reviewed a list of projects that would allow the township to obtain points. Tim Cahalin asked what happened during the anti-idling program in the township. David Posey explained that the township adopted an ordinance in 2012 to prohibit idling and that it was sent to all the schools to enforce. Timothy Cahalin noted that there is a program where the township could obtain points for the enforcement and education of anti-idling.

Tim Cahalin reviewed the list of items and the programs, which would be beneficial for the township to obtain points. He noted that there is a project for rain gardens and also tree planting. He stated that based on the projects that have been completed, the township currently has approximately 160 points, which would give the township a bronze. He noted that the township would need to obtain 350 points for a silver.

Willard Reasoner noted that Frenchtown Borough obtained a \$25,000 grant to put a food composter in place, between the school and the commercial properties in the borough.

MEL – Update

Gail Ashley reviewed a memo, which is a list of information that the township will be requesting from MEL. She supplied the list for the Commissioners to review for the meeting in February. She noted that the idea is to get three or four Commissioners together with representatives from MEL and Environ to get an update on the site remediation program and the industrial site recovery act. She noted it has been over 25 years since the problem started. She reviewed some of the reports from MEL, and stated that she would like to obtain additional data for the EC to assess. She explained that one of the questions is to know what the status of the cleanup program is at this point. She would like to know more about the water being pumped from the homes, and find out if they are taking water out of the wells. She noted that there are several monitoring wells surrounding the plant and feels the EC should know more about them.

8.

She explained that there is also the question of the radioactive spill, and that the township would like to know more about that along with the results of the cleanup. She feels that they will need to give the township digital data for the EC to review. Some of the Commissioners expressed interest in the history of MEL, and the spills which occurred many years ago. Gail Ashley and Lois Voronin gave a brief review of what they know had happened.

Gail Ashley explained that she would like a few members from the EC to meet with representatives from MEL and Environ to talk to them more about the cleanup and what is now happening.

David Posey stated he would like to find out what kind of a list they have available of the results. He noted he will request a list of items from the State regarding information on MEL.

Horseshoe Bend Park – Update

(20). Memo to the Township Committee re: HBP Habitat Management Recommendations

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the memo that was sent to the Township Committee regarding the HBP Habitat Management Recommendations. She explained the reasons for the recommendations and that she will be going to the next Parks and Recreation Committee meeting to explain. She would like the township to keep track of what is being done at the parks in the township.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that she would like to see a subcommittee created, which would include someone from the Township Committee, the Environmental Commission, the Parks and Recreation Committee and also a local farmer to discuss recommendations for the parks in Kingwood Township.

There was a suggestion signs be made and put up at the Horseshoe Bend Park stating the rules and regulations on park grounds.

Kingwood Park

(21). NJWSA Kingwood Park Restoration Plan

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She explained that this was discussed at the last meeting and she will have an update for next month.

New Business

(22). ANJEC 2014 Membership Dues

9.

It was moved by Gail Ashley, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to approve to renew the ANJEC dues for the Environmental Commission Members for 2014 at the same level as prior years.

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

(23). 2013 – 2017 New Jersey Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

24). Copy of Resolution No. 2013-112 Authorizing Permitted Bow Hunting on Block 19, Lot 5

Secretary Keller explained the process of the bow hunting at the Ukarish farm.

(25). Letter from County – Division of Parks and Recreation – Invitation to Annual Earth Day – Saturday, April 26, 2014 at Deer Path Park – 10:30am-4:00pm

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(26).

Copy of Letter to Business Owner – Block 9, Lot 2.01 from JM Sorge, Inc. Environmental Consultants

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. David Posey reviewed the response action outcome.

(27). 2014 ANJEC Open Space Grants for Environmental Commissions

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She asked everyone if there was anything they had in mind, and if so they would be able to apply for the open space grant.

(28). Annual Report for 2013

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed and asked if anyone had any comments or questions. It was recommended that the Commission Members review it further. She recommended this be put on the agenda for next month to consider making a motion to approve the EC Annual Report for 2013.

(29). 2014 EC Objectives (Draft)

10.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. Gail Ashley suggested that this be put on the agenda for next month and discussed earlier in the evening, so that the Commission has more time to go over the objectives.

Site Plan Review

(30). Subdivision Application for Minor Subdivision – Block 9, Lot 13

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She noted that a good portion of the property has wetlands.

She asked the Commission Members if suggestions should be sent to the Planning Board regarding this minor subdivision. Sandra McNicol noted there was an LOI with the application and suggested that the Environmental Commission wait to see if anything else comes up before forwarding suggestions to the Planning Board.

(30a). Map Block 9, Lot 13

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed a map of the minor subdivision for Block 9, Lot 13 over the projector for everyone to review.

Open Space

Sandy McNicol – Update on Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting of January 7, 2013.

Sandra McNicol explained that the Open Space did not have a quorum at the last meeting, but that the Agriculture Advisory Committee met. She gave a brief update of the most recent land preservation in the township. She explained that the Hunterdon Land Trust just preserved a two acre piece of property for \$60,000 off Barbertown Idell Road. She explained that the Cooley property closed and that is now part of the NJDEP, where there is access from Route 29. She also noted that the Maplewood Farm was preserved recently on Hampton Road and is a large piece of property, which is approximately 100 acres. She noted that this is prime soil for farming. She is hoping there will be a dedication scheduled for that property. She noted that the Hunterdon Land trust is still looking at a number of properties, which they are working on. She explained there are several properties being preserved by the State. Sandra McNicol noted that the township has received \$19,000 from the County, which the township will bank for the future.

(31).

NY Times Article Jan 2014 – Celebrating Deep Freeze, Insect Experts See a Chance To Kill off Invasive Species – Sandra McNicol to Discuss

11.

Sandra McNicol noted that this is for everyone's information.

2nd Annual New Jersey Invasive Species Conference

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed and noted this is for anyone that is interested in attending.

D & R Canal Cleanup

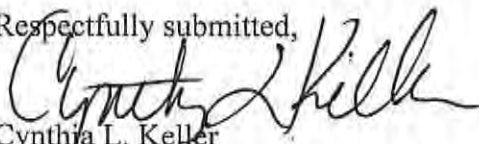
Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She noted that Lindsay Blanton, AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador is arranging a clean-up on March 15th for the D & R Canal. She plans on recruiting many people to volunteer for the day.

Willard Reasoner asked if anyone knew about the grant the township may be getting from the State, which is called the Sustainable North Jersey Grant. He explained that he is on a committee and will be working on the project. He briefly explained what the project is all about. Sandra McNicol explained what the Planning Board approved and talked about the possible proposals to change the zoning, but she knew nothing about the grant. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted she will look into this further. Committeewoman Diana Haywood explained the ordinances the township adopted regarding the Route 12 Corridor.

Adjournment

It was moved by Gail Ashley, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:05PM. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia L. Keller
Secretary