

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
August 26, 2014  
7:30 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:49P.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 February 6, 2014, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Express Times and the Star Ledger on January 29, 2014. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on January 29, 2014.**

**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  
Timothy Cahalin  
Diana Haywood

**Absent**

Cynthia Niciecki  
Willard Reasoner  
Joe Zgurzynski

**Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor**

**Minutes**

(1). Approval of the June 24, 2014 Environmental Commission Regular Minutes

It was moved by Lois Voronin, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to approve the June 24, 2014 Environmental Commission Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes.

2.

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

(2). Approval of the July 22, 2014 Environmental Commission Regular Minutes

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to approve the July 22, 2014 Environmental Commission Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes.

Comments and corrections: **Under New Business – ANJEC Social Media Webinar** – Paragraph should be replaced with the following:

Sandra McNicol explained that she participated in the webinar and feels that it was very informative. She suggested the Environmental Commission set up their own social media page, which she feels it would be a good way to get the news out to the residents, such as the water testing and other programs. She feels it would be a lot of work to keep it up, and to get the information out.

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

**Old Business**

Discuss How to Spend \$75.00 on the Natural Rain Garden at the Kingwood Park

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that there are funds left over that were donated to the EC Natural Rain Garden, which are available in the Park and Recreation account to spend on the items for the garden at the Kingwood Park. Lois Voronin suggested to put more of the red cardinal plants, and stated they seem to like it there. Sandy McNicol stated that the D & R Greenway will be having a plant sale soon. She also offered to call Bowman's Hill for prices and to see if they have some native plants. Sandra McNicol also suggested bags of stones for the path of the garden. There was a suggestion to go to Home Depot to get some prices on stone and plants. There was also a suggestion to purchase soil for the bare spots in the garden.

It was moved by Gail Ashley, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to approve to purchase plants, soil and landscaping stones for the Rain Garden at the Kingwood Park using the amount of \$75.00 from the Parks and Recreation account, which was a prior donation for this garden.

3.

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

### **New Business**

Hunterdon Land Trust recently acquired a small preserve near the 519 bridge. The preserve needs some restoration work done. They are applying for a grant to do so, and one of the qualifications is to engage the local environmental commission. Would Kingwood's EC be able to participate by spreading word about volunteer events, participating in the events, or any other way?

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer read the e-mail to everyone. Sandra McNicol explained where the property is located. The Hunterdon Land Trust's Lockatong Creek Recreation Area is located just north of the Route 519 bridge that is currently out of order. It was noted that the property is 7 acres of wooded wetlands and contains over 1200 feet of the Lockatong on both banks. Currently, the forest and the stream banks are in poor condition.

Tom Thorsen from the Hunterdon Land Trust noted in his e-mail that he is hoping to find partners in restoring the area by removing invasive plants, establishing a path, and possibly planting native plants. The preserve is used by trout fishermen, and having an established path and fishing area will stop them from affecting the preserve elsewhere. He asked if the Environmental Commission would be available to help by volunteering, recruiting volunteers, finding plant resources, or help in any other way. He noted that the Hunterdon Land Trust would be very grateful. The Commission all agreed to post this information on the township's website, and on the township's face book page to spread the word. Several member of the EC noted they would be interested in volunteering for this project.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Timothy Cahalin and carried to agree to inform the Hunterdon Land Trust Steward, Tom Thorsen and let him know that the Environmental Commission has agreed to participate in the Environmental project at the Podpora property.

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

4.

### **Correspondence**

- (3). ANJEC Conferences and Workshops – Environmental Leadership: Rising to the Challenge – Friday October 24<sup>th</sup>

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the details of the workshop.

### **Notice of Upcoming Workshops and meetings:**

N/A

### **Recycling News and Update**

#### Update from Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol

Sandra McNicol noted that she was the volunteer for the August recycling Saturday. She explained that she has completed the Clean Communities report, which needs to go to the State, and of the \$16,117.00 the township received from the 2013 grant, she was able to spend all but approximately \$400.00. She explained all the items that she purchased with the funds.

She explained how the clean communities' funds have been subsidizing the Clean Up Days dumpsters during the months that were available. She explained that there is a facility available to take items that have Freon, which is at the Holland Township Recycling center. She noted that this is open to other residents from other towns. She stated that she will be going to that facility to visit tomorrow. She noted all the tires have been taken off the Department of Public Works property.

### **Reports**

- (4). Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notice from the NJDEP – Re: 97 Horseshoe Bend Road – Gasoline

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

- (5). Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notice from the NJDEP – Re: 97 Horseshoe Bend Road – Lead

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

- (6). Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification from the NJDEP – Route 12 and Locktown Road

5.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She noted that she will find out more information regarding this property.

(7). Copy of Letter from NJDEP – Re: Area of Concern Block 1, Lot 7.02 Underground Storage Tank System

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(8). Analytical Report from QC Labs – Results of Water Testing for Women’s Bathroom Sink At Kingwood Park

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed and noted the results were fine.

(9). Analytical Report from QC Labs – Results of Water Testing for Outside Spigot of Residence at the Kingwood Park

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed and noted the results were fine.

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

N/A

### **Action Items:**

#### **Sustainable Jersey**

Tim Cahalin noted that Sandra McNicol and Debbie Kratzer were kind enough to get involved. He explained that information was e-mailed to them and that they now have a plan to go through this information and update the township’s profile, so more people can access the Sustainable Jerseys website.

#### **MEL- Update**

Gail Ashley and Debbie Kratzer noted they have not heard anything from MEL as of this date. Gail Ashley offered to e-mail them to find out if they received the letter that was mailed to them inviting them for the October meeting and if they plan on attending.

(10). Copy of Letter to Gavin Edwards – MEL Chemicals

(11). Copy of Letter to William Kraft – Environ International Corp.

### **Horseshoe Bend Park – Update**

6.

Sandra McNicol explained there were students from the State Parks who came to Horseshoe Bend Park to work on the trails for approximately two weeks. She noted they stayed in tents behind the Morton Building at the park. She noted they did a great job and if anyone has a chance to walk on this new trail that it is a great area to hike. She explained that the orange trail is now completed from the south entrance all the way to the Flag property and down into the Kirkland property. She noted that the map for the trails are now available on the Kingwood Township website. She noted that this is a group that move around to all areas on the east coast.

Sandra McNicol explained that the gentleman who volunteered to take the dog droppings from the Horseshoe Bend Park dog leash free area, is still doing that for the residents. She explained that the butterfly group was out at the Horseshoe Bend Park again. She noted that Deputy Mayor Dodds is the force behind the Horseshoe Bend Park.

### **Kingwood Park**

#### **Community Day – Planning**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that the water sample kits will be available for residents to purchase. She asked who would be available to attend and watch the table. There was a discussion regarding the brochures needed for the EC table.

#### **Site Plan Review**

N/A

#### **Open Space**

##### **Sandy McNicol – Updates (There was no meeting in August)**

Sandra McNicol noted that a piece of property, which is known as the Marramore property is now preserved on Union Road. She explained that this property is next to two other preserved properties along the Lockatong Creek. She noted that the updated preservation map is now completed and is on the township website. She explained that the Church property is still not closed at this time, but hopefully will be by October.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that she found an invasive species called a mile a minute weed on her neighbor's property, which is a very bad invasive species. The Commission asked Debbie Kratzer to e-mail everyone a picture of the plant.

Sandra McNicol noted that there is a continued controversy regarding the newest solar facility on Muddy Run Road. She explained that larger inverters were put up that were not originally planned. She explained that there are residents that complained of the loud sound from the inverters. Sandra McNicol explained that it was checked out by the County Engineer and the County Health Department and all is in compliance with the noise levels.

7.

David Posey noted that in November, there will ballot on an Open Space initiative. He explained what it is all about. He expressed his feelings and stated that this is not a good cause.

**Adjournment**

It was moved by Gail Ashley, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to adjourn the meeting at pm. **All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller  
Secretary