ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 2014
7:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:32 P.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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Absent</th>
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<tr>
<td>Debbie Kratzer</td>
<td>Lois Voronin</td>
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<td>Sandra McNicol</td>
<td>Cynthia Niciecki</td>
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<td>Gail Ashley</td>
<td>Willard Reasoner</td>
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<td>David Posey</td>
<td>Timothy Cahalin</td>
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<td>Diana Haywood Joe</td>
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<td>Zgurzynski</td>
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Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

Nathan Charron, Environmental Coordinator from HART Commuter Information Services

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer welcomed Nathan Charron, Environmental Education Coordinator from HART Commuter Information Services of Hunterdon County. He brought brochures and handouts regarding the Sustainable Hunterdon for everyone. He explained the purpose of the
document, which is to provide municipalities with information regarding Sustainable Jersey Certification and assistance that HART can provide in completing various actions.

He explained that this is guidance that will show how to complete the actions in the program to earn points.

He also handed out information for the New Jersey Schools, which he explained is new this year. What they are trying to do is to get the municipalities and schools to work together as a lot of the actions are the same, and it is easier to have the school and the municipality to work together.

Nathan Charron noted that he is available to answer any questions at any time while working on the actions. He asked if anyone had any questions.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that they started working on their sustainable list, and explained they are happy he could come and help the out with assistance. They explained that Tim Cahalin, a member of the Commission who was working on the sustainable program was not present. Diana Haywood explained that she and Elaine Niemann were working with the Sustainable Kingwood team to identify the items for sustainability that were already completed. Unfortunately, that process did not get completed. During that time the sustainability requirements continued to be updated. The team was formed as required by a township resolution but the process stalled in the identification stage as the team had difficulty mapping the requirements to what had already taken place in the township. The team still exists but has not been functional. With Nathan’s help the team will be reactivated early next year. The Commission asked Nathan Charron what they could do to obtain more points to reach their goal. Diana Haywood explained what the team has already done so far.

Nathan Charron explained the process of how it works. He feels that the township has approximately about 90 points so far by what the Environmental Commission members explained to him what was done so far. He stated that he has information on a power point instruction presentation that explains the website and how to do everything step by step. He noted that he will share this with the Environmental Commission to help them go by and to obtain their points to be certified. Chairman Debbie Kratzer asked him to send the power point instruction to her.

Diana Haywood noted that the Kingwood Township Master Plan includes a provision for an area at the eastern gateway to the township which would function as a town center with shops and living areas with a greater density than is allowed in the township. This greater density would be offset by a transfer of developmental rights (TDRs) from other areas that would then have corresponding lesser densities, which would be given financial compensation by the developer. While this process is in the master plan, there is no actual development taking place at this time. The intent is for the township to have an area set aside and a plan in place if a developer is interested in implementing such a development. Nathan Charron noted that the township could include this into their list. Debbie Kratzer asked how other towns function and what they do to
obtain their certification. Nathan Charron explained that some of them use their Environmental Commission to be their Green Team. He stated that he is available to help in anyway, and to contact him anytime the Environmental Commission has any questions.

Diana Haywood noted that first we need to figure out what actions already taken can be included for certification. Nathan Charron stated that he will send information from other municipalities that are small and similar to Kingwood, so the Environmental Commission can see how they do their sustainability. The Commission feels that this would be a great idea.

Diana Haywood explained that the Kingwood and Frenchtown green teams held a joint rummage sale for fund raising to support financing for action items. Nathan Charron noted that he works with six municipalities and guides them the right way.

Everyone thanked Nathan Charron for coming to the meeting and for all his help and information. They all noted how they look forward to working with him.

Minutes
(1). Approval of the October 28, 2014 Environmental Commission Regular Minutes

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to approve the October 28, 2014 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.

Roll Call Vote: 

Aye - Kratzer, McNicol, Ashley, Posey, Zgurzynski 

Nay - None 

Abstain - None 

Absent - Niciecki, Cahalin, Voronin

Old Business

Community Water Testing in September

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer thanked David Posey for coming to the municipal building to help out with collecting the samples for the drop off. David Posey explained that everything went well. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that it was a good turnout this year and that the notice which was sent home to all the residents helped inform everyone about the discount program. The Commission all agreed that Raritan Headwaters Association was a good company to go with for the discount water testing. It was noted that several municipalities have used this company for the same kind of program for their towns.

ANJEC Conference in October

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that she attended ANJEC’s Annual Conference in October. She stated that she would like to see at least two Commissioners attend the conference each year. She note that there were several different subjects to choose from at the seminar. She
explained that former Governor Thomas Kean was one of the speakers. He explained some of the environment things he was involved with during his term. He also explained the ways they stopped the dam. Debbie Krater noted that she went to another class regarding ground water, which is listed on the agenda under DGS14 -1-Low Flow Margin Summary. She feels that it was a really beneficial conference to attend.

New Business
Discuss Use of Water Workbook to Determine the Available Groundwater for All of Kingwood Township

(2). DGS14-1-Low Flow Margin Summary

Chairwoman Debbie Krater noted that this has just become available. She explained that Kingwood has two Huc 11’s on the watershed level and that this is how much water needs to be reserved for stream health. She gave an overview of what she learned at the seminar.

Chairwoman Debbie Krater reviewed the spreadsheet of the Flow Margin Summary over the projector to everyone. This was a chart of the Huc11 water availability summary for WMA 11 Central Delaware. Table 1 HUC11 area low flow margin and potential limiting factors.

(3). Holden Grant Application 2015

Chairwoman Debbie Krater explained that she and Sandra McNicol worked together on this grant application for 2015. Sandra McNicol noted that she worked to meet the criteria for the requirements for the grant. She stated that the objectives of this project are to restore and enhance meadow habitat for pollinators, especially rare and uncommon butterflies on a 25 acre field within the park. She noted that the amount being requested from Washington Crossing Audubon is $3,420.00. She feels that the township has a good chance at obtaining this grant.

Correspondence

(4). Outdoor Issues – News from the Land Conservancy of New Jersey

Chairwoman Debbie Krater reviewed.

Notice of Upcoming Workshops and meetings:

Chairwoman Debbie Krater noted that there is a meeting called the Science of Pipelines Environmental Considerations for Communities, and it is on Thursday from 7:00pm to 9:00pm and it is at the Nurture Nature Center in Easton PA.

Sandra McNicol mentioned another important meeting and it will be at the DRVC Headquarters in early December. She noted that this is the meeting if you want to voice an opinion regarding
the pipeline. She feels that this is a very important meeting and suggested anyone that is interested should attend.

**Recycling News and Update**

*Update from Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol*

Sandra McNicol noted that Debbie Kratzer opened and closed the recycling center on the second Saturday on November 8th. Sandra McNicol thanked Debbie Kratzer for working at the recycling center. She stated that not much is new at this time.

**(5). 2014 August 29th – Kingwood Tire Cleanup**

Sandra McNicol noted that she saw an article in the Sunday Democrat regarding scrap tires being cleaned up off a property in Kingwood Township. She explained that there has been a problem with stock piled tires at this property for a long time. She noted that there were several complains, and that the NJDEP has even been out to look at this problem on the property. She stated that there were over 2000 tires on the property. She explained that the mosquito problem is the way they get rid of the piles of residential properties.

She explained that the township had several tires that they obtained through the annual Clean-Up Program. She noted that the township charges $5.00 a tire for getting rid of tires during their program.

**Reports**

**Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District**

**Action Items:**

*Sustainable Jersey*

This was discussed earlier in the meeting with the guest speaker.

**MEL - Update**

Gail Ashley handed out a document from Environ, which is a diagram of the wells and their locations, which are affected by MEL Chemicals Inc.

Sandra McNicol wanted everyone to know she contacted (EMC) Emergency Management Coordinator Jack MacConnell to find out if he had any information on the recent spill at MEL Chemicals. She explained that he had not heard or received anything regarding the spill, but that he was going to contact them to be put on their contact list if something happens again. It was noted that the spill happened in August, and the township was not notified until the end of September.
Gail Ashley explained that she called and spoke to the State Geologist regarding the recent spill to find out what was going on. He referred her to the office who was overseeing it. She asked that person for an update of the status of this new problem. They told her that it was cleaned up and the issue was closed. They also told Gail Ashley a report would be sent to her. Gail Ashley noted that no report has been sent yet, but that she will call to find out where it is, and request a PDF, and then she will send it to everyone.

Gail Ashley reviewed a chart she prepared from all the data obtained of the quarterly reports from the wells surrounding MEL Chemicals. She noted that this is a chart of all the conductivity from 2002 to 2014. She noted that it is pretty good coverage.

She explained that this is conductivity measurements, which shows the level of salt levels along with the dates that show the coverage.

She explained what all the numbers were on each property on the map in accordance with how close they were to the spills on the MEL Chemicals property. She stated that this shows how the salt content has gone up over time. She also showed the location of where all the spills occurred. She stated the chart of individual salt levels, which explain time vs. salt levels. She stated all of these properties show increase in time and the salt levels and how they have gone up and that MEL Chemicals said it went down over time. There was a lengthy discussion on the salt in the wells in the homes surrounding MEL Chemicals.

Joe Zgurzynski also commented on the salt in the water and how the conductivity works.

Gail Ashley explained four different properties and reviewed the status information from the chart. The Commission reviewed the chart and everyone had several comments and questions. Gail Ashley and Joe Zgurzynski answered several of the concerns and questions.

Gail Ashley noted that one of the properties is a dog kennel and there was a discussion and concern whether the water was given to the dogs.

The Commission all agreed that the map of wells surrounding MEL Chemicals be put in the minutes and remove the names.

Everyone thanked Gail Ashley for all this information that she has worked on regarding MEL.

A map of the wells surrounding MEL Chemicals will be attached to the back of these minutes.

**PennEast Pipeline**

(6). **Resolution No. 2014 – 98 Resolution Concerning PennEast Pipeline**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer briefly reviewed. She noted that the Township Committee had a special public hearing at the Kingwood Township Firehouse on October 29th, 2014,
where they invited the public to come speak regarding the pipeline. She noted that they also adopted a resolution opposing the PennEast Pipeline.

Joe Zgurzynski recommends this resolution be shared with a representative he spoke to at the seminar he went to last month. There was a lengthy discussion on the pipeline.

(7). Kingwood PennEast Parcel Map/EC Maps and List of Properties by Block and Lots

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the maps and list of properties she worked on that will be affected by the pipeline over the projector.

Joe Zgurzynski discussed the meeting he went to on fracking and the pipeline. He noted that there will be a billion cubic feet of gas flowing through the pipeline a day. He explained that he spoke to several people in all different aspects for the pipeline. He explained that they seem very ambitious and have a schedule. He noted as a geologist, he learned that they are going to put the pipeline on top of consolidated rock.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that as an Environmental Commission, they should send their comments to (FERC) Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. It was noted that there should be an impact coming from the Environmental Commission.
Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer will be working on this list and send this to FERC.

The Environmental Commission had concerns regarding this natural resource being rushed to use in such a large quantity, and also using it all up at such a fast rate.

(8). The Urgent Case for a Ban on Fracking

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. There was a brief discussion on the article on the urgent case for a ban on fracking.

(9). USGS Report 2011

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(10). Sample Ordinance Banning Fracking

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed and feels that the Environmental Commission should recommend that the Township Committee adopt an ordinance banning fracking. It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to approve to recommend to the Township Committee that they consider the adoption of an ordinance from the sample ordinance to ban fracking, and to also add the reasons why the township has the well ordinance regarding the ground water in the township.
Roll Call Vote: 

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

Horseshoe Bend Park – Update

Kingwood Park

Site Plan Review

Final Plat – Meadow View Major Subdivision – Block 28, Lot 11.01

Sandra McNicol noted that Meadow View’s attorney, engineer and builder met with the planning board at a meeting. She noted that they are in the process of cleaning up and taking care of all the things they have not taken care of previously. She noted they still have a lot of work to do and that it is a seven lot subdivision. She noted that in order to get their subdivision they need to get several things completed. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer asked Sandra McNicol if there is anything the Environmental Commission needs to do to look into this property. Sandra responded and noted that nothing needs to be done at this time.

Open Space

Sandy McNicol – Update from November 10, 2014 Open Space and Ag Meeting

Sandra McNicol noted that the Open Space and Ag Committees are working on the finances to see if there is additional spending money. She explained that the township did get a settlement from the solar facility on Barbertown Point Breeze Road, which went into the Openspace account in the amount of $240,000.00. She noted that this will help with the bond payments.

Adjournment

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Diana Haywood and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:40pm. All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller,
Secretary