

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 22, 2015
7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:41P.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 29th, 2015, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Express Times on January 21, 2015. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on January 21, 2015.

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
Diana Haywood
Timothy Cahalin

Absent

Willard Reasoner
Cynthia Niciecki
Joe Zgurzynski

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

N/A

Minutes

(1). Approval of August 25, 2015 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to approve the August 25, 2015 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.

2.

Comments/Corrections: Page 5 – Under first paragraph where Lois Voronin was mentioned, Vice Chairwoman should be removed from the title for Lois Voronin. It was stated that David Posey is the Vice Chairperson on the Environmental Commission this year.

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

Correspondence

Notice of upcoming meetings/workshops:

(2). ANJEC – 42nd Annual Environmental Congress

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She noted that she would like to sign up to go to this workshop. Secretary Keller will be signing up any members that are interested.

Recycling News and Update

Update from Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol

Sandra McNicol noted that the township is having another dumpster clean-up day in October on the 10th of the month at the Kingwood Recycling Center. She explained that the Jr. Terrier Cheerleaders had a trash pickup in September and that there will be two more organizations lined up for the near future also for roadside clean-up.

Sandra McNicol explained that the recycling center is going well. She is thinking of having a tire drive in the springtime. She noted that there are some funds available to be used in the Clean Communities account to put towards the tire drive. She will consider allowing residents to bring a few tires at no charge, but any over the limit, the township would have to charge a small fee.

Reports

(3). Notice from the NJDEP to Home Owner re: Demand for Compliance Block 26, Lot 19.04

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District

N/A

New Business

N/A

Old Business

Community Day Review

3.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that Community Day went very well. She explained that there are a lot of people that visited the Citizens Against the Pipeline table, and that there were several people who signed up for the Discount Septic and Water Testing Program. Secretary Keller noted that there was a very good turnout for the discount programs this year.

(4). Ordinance Banning Fracking – Presentation to Planning Board and Township Committee on 9/10/2015

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that the Township Committee were a little apprehensive regarding Kingwood being one of the first townships to ban fracking. It was suggested to send a proposed ordinance to ban fracking to the nearby towns to get their opinions. Lois Voronin stated that she was thinking about adding several other facts to the ordinance describing how dangerous fracking is to septic systems and wells.

Lois Voronin discussed an article regarding water budgets. She shared a diagram of wells in the area mostly covering Pennsylvania.

Everyone thanked Lois Voronin for all her work on this proposed ordinance and the presentation she gave to the Planning Board and Township Committee members.

(5). Outline of Presentation from Lois Voronin

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Action Items:

Sustainable Jersey – Kingwood Green Team Update

Timothy Cahalin and Diana Haywood noted that there is no update at this time.

MEL – Update

Update from Gail Ashley

(6). E-Mail from Mayor – Contact MEL Representative

Gail Ashley brought everyone up to date with a history of the contact with MEL. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the contact the township has had with MEL and the lack of response from them. Gail Ashley noted that Mayor Dodds tried to reach out to them to find out what they have done, as far as, testing the wells near MEL and the questions regarding the salinity in the area.

There was a suggestion to ask the citizens who are getting their water tested in the discount program, to ask them to voluntarily share their results of their tests with the Environmental Commission. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer suggested that the Environmental Commission plan this idea for next year during the discount program and ask if anyone would like to share their results with them.

4.

Gail Ashley feels that it may be a good idea to reach out to the residents who live near MEL by sending letters to them explaining what the Environmental Commission is concerned about and what they are researching. Also to inform them that the Environmental Commission is trying to obtain information from them to find out what MEL is doing, and what is in the ground as a result of what they are processing that is going into the ground.

It was suggested that a letter be written by the Mayor to follow up with William Kraft at MEL.

It was moved by Gail Ashley, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to first write a letter to the 21 residents who's wells are affected and second to have the Mayor write a letter following up with William Kraft from Environ International to get a response from his last conversation with him on August 26th, 2015 and to (cc) to Gavin Edwards, Manager in charge at MEL and also the NJDEP.

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

(7). Progress Report from MEL – August 7, 2013

Gail Ashley briefly reviewed.

On Going Well Water Resource Inventory
N/A

PennEast Pipeline: - Update

(8). Letter to Acting Director of Permit Coordination and Environmental Review NJDEP

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(9). Letter from Resident – Re: Pipeline

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. The Commission noted that they were very happy to receive responses like this from residents.

(10). Pipeline Comments from Kingwood Township Rescue Squad

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She noted that there were positive responses from the local organizations.

5.

(11). Comments From Chief of Kingwood Volunteer Fire Company to EC Chair

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(12). Kingwood EC – RR3 – Comments to FERC 9-17-2015

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(13). Letter NJDEP About Test Pits on NJDEP Property Block 24, Lot 8 (Draft)

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed and gave an update.

(14). Environmental Commission Comments on Resource Report 2 (Water Use and Quality) (Draft)

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed and gave an update. Sandra McNicol asked if these comments are going to the NJDEP. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer responded by stating yes, they are going to the NJDEP.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the sample holes made in the ground by the PennEast Pipeline in a field along Route 519 going south.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to make changes to the letter and that it be sent to the NJDEP.

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

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to have the Environmental Commission review these reports by the end of the week, send all comments to Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer and then be sent to FERC.

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

There was a brief discussion regarding the ground water and service water.

6.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to review the ground water and service water report by the end of the week and to send any comments to Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer and then be sent to FERC.

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

Horseshoe Bend Park – Update
Pollinator Meadow Project – Update

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer gave an update of the Pollinator Meadow at the Horseshoe Bend Park. She noted that it is doing well. She noted that she has the seeds, but that the ground just needs to be prepared and seeds planted.

Kingwood Park - Update -

Site Plan Review

(15). Site Plan Application – EH Equities Limited Liability Co. – Block 17, Lot 8

Sandra McNicol reviewed. She explained that Applied Waste Water Treatment have applied to the Planning Board to expand on the property.

Open Space

Sandra McNicol – Update on Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting of September 1, 2015

Sandra McNicol noted there has not been a meeting since June for the Open Space and Ag Committees.

Adjournment

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by David Posey and carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:13P.M. **All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller, Secretary

