

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 25, 2016
7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:32P.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 4, 2016, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Express Times on January 27, 2016. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on January 27, 2016.

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
David Posey
Cynthia Niciecki
Timothy Cahalin
Diana Haywood

Absent

Sandra McNicol
Willard Reasoner
Joe Zgurzynski

Public Comments/Privilege of the Floor

**Presentation from Steve Spayd, Research Scientist and Hydro-geologist for the NJDEP
Copy of Letter Inviting Steve Spayd to October 25th, EC Meeting to Speak**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer introduced Steve Spayd, Research Scientist and Hydro-geologist from the NJDEP. Steve Spayd noted he was present at the meeting to review results from the arsenic testing program they conducted several months ago for residents and the local Kingwood Township School families. He reviewed the following results throughout the township:

2.

Steve Spayd noted that 43% of the wells in the township failed for arsenic. He explained that New Jersey's arsenic drinking water standard of .5ug/l is the most protective in the country. He noted that 196 wells were tested through the program, 66 wells, which is 34% exceeded the drinking well standard. He noted that 29 homes had arsenic treatment systems and 7 of the homes failed water testing at the sink. Arsenic is the biggest well water concern in Kingwood Township. He noted that they have tested over 80,000 wells in New Jersey for arsenic.

Other contaminants are also found in well water along with arsenic, such as iron and manganese, radioactive elements: uranium, radium and radon.

Steve Spayd reviewed several health issues due to arsenic. Cancer: Bladder, Lung, Liver, Kidney, Skin and also causes Diabetes, High Blood Pressure, Lowers Children's IQ, anxiety and depression.

Steve Spayd explained that Boron in water kills plants, ants, in mammals (mice, rats, and dogs), and it is toxic to the male reproductive system. He reviewed a map of the different types of bedrock in the piedmont over the projector throughout New Jersey, which he explained is the area where the arsenic is the most common.

Steve Spayd reviewed the geological source of arsenic and the factors on well water quality of pH in private well water. He also talked about arsenic in pools and hot tubs. He noted that the numbers are very high especially in hot tubs. He suggested everyone go to the following website to learn more: www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/arsenic/guide.htm

Steve Spayd reviewed the Boron well testing results. He stated that 196 wells tested through the program and 14 of those wells at 7% exceeded the drinking water health advisory. He noted that boron is not absorbed into the skin. He noted that you do not need it treated, but that it can be fixed in the well.

Steve Spayd reviewed whole house arsenic water treatment systems, which costs anywhere from \$1,500 to approximately \$3,000.

Several members of the public asked several questions. Steve Spayd responded and answered all of their questions.

He talked about a seminar, which will be given at the Hunterdon Medical Center regarding arsenic. He stated that there will also be free tests for pediatrics and expecting woman.

He noted that the only way to know what is in the water is to test it. He stated the Environmental Commission has a Discount Well Testing Program going on at this time and he hopes many people take advantage of the program.

He gave his phone number and e-mail address for those that had more questions. Everyone thanked Steve Spayd for coming and talking about arsenic.

3.

Bedrock and Arsenic Figures from Previous Studies of Water – From Gail Ashley

This was provided by Gail Ashley for the Commission to review.

Minutes

(1). Approval of September 27, 2016 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Gail Ashley, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2016 Environmental Commission Regular meeting with the following correction:

Under Recycling News and Update – Second paragraph – the word (medal) should be replaced with the word (metal).

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

Correspondence

Important Drought Info:

"<http://njdrought.org/status.html#northeast>"<http://njdrought.org/status.html#northeast>

(2). New Jersey Drought Information – Regional Drinking Water Supply Indicators

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(2a). Commissioner Signs Administrative Order – Drought in 14 Counties in NJ

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(2b). Join the Native Plant Society of NJ and Register Now for: NPSNJ Fall Conference – Saturday, November 5, 2016 10:00A.M. – 4:00P.M. Raritan Valley Community College, Main Campus Branchburg, NJ

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(2b). Native Plant Society NJ - Chapter Meeting November 21, 2016 @ 7:00PM- “Plant It and They will Come: Creating a Bird Friendly Landscape”

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Notice of upcoming meetings/workshops: Reminder of Dates

Environmental Commissions and Green Teams – October 27th, 6:00-7:30PM – Free Water Quality Workshop

4.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(3). 21st Annual New Jersey Land Conservation Rally – Friday, March 17, 2017

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Recycling News and Update

Update from Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol

Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol was not present at the meeting this evening to give a report.

Reports

Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District

N/A

New Business

(4). Environmental Commission – Annual Report Draft

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted she will have this for next month.

Old Business

Update on Chris Citgo

David Posey gave a brief update of what he researched regarding this property.

Water Testing Discount Program – September 17th – October 28th, 2016 - Update

Secretary Keller noted that there had been approximately 35 homeowners that signed up for the water testing so far.

Results of How Many Residents Signed Up for Discount Septic Program 10 – 12 Total

Secretary Keller noted that there were approximately 10 to 12 homeowners that have signed up for the Discount Septic Program.

Action Items:

Sustainable Jersey – Kingwood Green Team Update

Timothy Cahalin noted they have not met in a long time.

5.

MEL – Update

Update from Gail Ashley/Tim Cahalin

David Posey wrote a draft letter for everyone to review. He asked when would be a good time to send the letter out to the residents. He noted they need at least 25 signatures to submit the petition to the NJDEP. He stated that we need all of their participation. David Posey will work on getting the letter out in November or December to send out in January.

Tim Cahalin was present and noted he would like to go to the DEP and speak to someone more regarding the reports found on MEL.

Sustainable Aquaculture Systems, Inc.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that she went to the Land Use Board meeting for Franklin Twp. in October. She noted that they will continue the hearings. She noted that she plans to go to their next meeting in November.

PennEast Pipeline: - Update

- (5). Copy of Letter of September 1, 2016 from Mayor Haywood to FERC Re: Objections to the DEIS Implementation of NHPA Section 106 FERC Docket No. CP-15-558

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She noted that is it not too late to send in comments to FERC.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the PennEast pipeline. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted they are trying to survey many properties in the township, including the newly purchased Church property the township now owns.

- (6). Copy of Thank you Letter from NJ Conservation Foundation and Article from NJ Spotlight- New Jersey Government Agencies Add Their Voices to PennEast Protest

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC (PennEast) NJDEP Trenchless Crossing Presentation 4/26/2016

- (7). Att. 3 NJDEP – Trenchless Crossing Presentation (1)

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the document information regarding the construction of the PennEast Pipeline over the projector.

Maps of current/new 9/22/2016 PennEast proposed route including a new HDD.

- (8). KT Proposed PennEast Pipeline – October 2016 Part 1
(9). KT Proposed PennEast Pipeline – October 2016 Part 2

6.

(10). KT Proposed PennEast Pipeline – October 2016 Part 3

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the proposed routes over the projector.

Horseshoe Bend Park – Update
Pollinator Meadow Project – Update

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Site Plan Review
Application for Variance – BOA – Block 51, Lot 23 – 123 Byram Lane - Update

(11). Copy of Memo Sent to the BOA re: Block 51, Lot 23

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

- (12). Arial Map of Block 51, Lot 23
- (13). Review Letter from Twp. Engineer re: BOA Variance Appl. Block 51, Lot 23
- (14). Congress 16 – Handout EC Site Plan and Subdivision Review
- (15). Congress 16 - Presentation Site Plan Review

PowerPoints and outlines from speakers ANJEC Workshops and the Environmental Congress: HYPERLINK
"http://www.anjec.org/Presentations.htm"<http://www.anjec.org/Presentations.htm>___

Open Space
Sandra McNicol – Update Report - Open Space and Agricultural Meeting of October 4, 2016

Sandra McNicol, Chairwoman of the Open Space Committee was not present at the meeting.

Adjournment

It was moved by Lois Voronin, seconded by David Posey and carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:00P.M. All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller, Secretary
Environmental Commission