

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 23, 2016
7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:38P.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 28, 2016. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on January 28, 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
David Posey
Diana Haywood
Cynthia Niciecki
Lois Voronin
Gail Ashley
Timothy Cahalin**

Absent

**Willard Reasoner
Joe Zgurzynski**

Public Comments/Privilege of the Floor

Mr. and Mrs. George Pieczenik, residents of Kingwood Locktown Road were present at the meeting to speak to the Environmental Commission regarding the concerns at MEL. Mr. Pieczenik, a Professor of Rutgers Environmental School reviewed the document of information he provided for the Commission. The document is titled MEL Chemicals is a global producer and supplier of inorganic materials specializing in zirconium based chemicals. He reviewed several articles which he obtained by researching MEL. The Commission asked Mr. Pieczenik several questions and he responded. The Commission reviewed the MEL Chemicals – Right to Know Survey, which lists all the chemicals they use during the year.

2.

Mr. Pieczenik noted that he would like to request copies of all the Right to Know Surveys from the past. He was directed to visit the Township Clerk, fill out a record request for copies of all the Right to Know documents for MEL. Gail Ashley who has been working on MEL for a while now, offered to give Mr. and Mrs. Pieczenik her e-mail and she will send them information that she obtained regarding MEL.

The Commission Members thanked Mr. and Mrs. Pieczenik for coming.

Minutes

(1). Approval of January 26, 2016 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

It was moved by David Posey, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2016 Environmental Commission meeting.

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

Correspondence

(2). NJDEP - Get Your Earth Week Events Posted on the NJDEP Website

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Notice of upcoming meetings/workshops: Reminder of Dates

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the following information:

ANJEC – Conferences and Workshops – Fundamentals for Effective EC – March 5,12,19
20th Annual NJ Land Conservation Rally- March 18 Wyndham Garden Hotel, Trenton
8am-6pm <http://njconservation.org/conservationrally.htm>

NJ Invasive Species Conference - April 6 Duke Farms, Hillsborough 9am-3 pm
<http://njisst.org/2016Conference.htm>

Native Plant Society of New Jersey, Hunterdon Chapter - Upcoming Meetings March 3,
April 27 and May 26 – Topics will be Deer Resistant Plants

Recycling News and Update

Update from Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol

Sandra McNicol arrived at 9:00P.M. She noted that the township has finally received a grant from 2015 in the amount of approximately \$9,600 and some change. She explained that the monthly bill has become astronomical and that we spent \$12,000 for recycling. She stated that we have way too much recycling coming in for this size of town. She spoke to the Township's Department of Public Works. She is going to wait and see how things go for a month or so.

3.

She noted that the township spent \$1,200 in the month of December 2015. She noted that she called the Recycling Company and spoke to them about the dumpsters and how often they have been being swapped. She feels that we may need to have monitors or closures at our recycling center. She reminded everyone that there is no longer collection of electronics.

Reports

(3). NJDEP – Notice – Unregulated heating Oil Tank Program – Bl 41, L8.13

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(4). Maser Consulting Notice of Freshwater Wetlands Appl. Notice to Neighboring Landowners Re: Sustainable Aquaculture Systems, Inc. Block 49, Proposed Lot 21.01/Block 15.01 Lot 1

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. It was noted that the township was not properly noticed as required by the land use law regarding the wetlands application. She expressed her concerns of the Eastern Gateway Village Center Overlay being located right next to this project being built.

(5). Maser Consulting Letter to NJDEP – Application Support re: Freshwater Wetlands General Permit and Transition Area – Bl 49 Lot 21.01 / Bl 15.01 Lot 1

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the documentation regarding the permit for the Sustainable Aquaculture Systems, Inc. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the concerns of the property.

(6). NJDEP – Permit – Site Location – Block 33, Lot 3.03 - Paper Copy Only

The Commission received a paper copy. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer briefly reviewed.

(7). EC – 2016 Objectives

Chairwoman reviewed the 2016 EC Objectives. The Commissioners commented on the list and stated it looked good and that they approve of the 2016 Objectives for the Environmental Commission.

It was moved by Gail Ashley, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to approve the Environmental Commissions 2016 Objectives.

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

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer wanted to take a moment and thank everyone on the Commission who helps out with everything they work on during the year.

4.

Reports – Continued

(8). NJDEP – Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification – BI 41, L 15.02
Chairwoman Debbie Krazer reviewed that this is regarding an underground storage tank.

Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District

N/A

New Business

Old Business

(9). Copy of January 29, 2016 Memo to Twp. Comm, Pl. Bd, BOH, and Open Space and AG – Re: Sustainable Aquaculture Systems Inc. Block 15.01 Lot 1 in Kingwood Twp. and Block 49 Lot 21 and 23 in Franklin Twp.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the memo she prepared that went to the Township Committee. She explained that copies of the memo, which included comments from Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer regarding concerns of the ground water and many other items, were taken to Franklin Township by Sandra McNicol for them to review at their Land Use Board meeting. She explained that the Commission was never notified about the meetings and that it was already discussed at several meetings. Secretary Keller explained the township received a copy of the transcript of minutes from Maureen Synchron regarding Franklin Township's Land Use Board meeting, which was a hearing for approval for Sustainable Aquaculture Systems Inc.

(10). Copy of Resolution No. 2015 – 127 A Resolution Opposing to Consent to the Proposed Water Quality Management Plan Amendment Entitled Sustainable Aquaculture Systems Inc.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She explained that the Resolution and comments from the Environmental Commission were never sent out to Franklin Township and the State NJDEP, until later when it was too late. She noted that a letter from the NJDEP was sent to Kingwood Township stating that no comments were received. Lois Voronin commented how there has been nothing in the newspapers regarding this project, which everyone thought was odd.

Action Items:

Sustainable Jersey – Kingwood Green Team Update

(21). E-mail of Second Green Team Hub Meeting on Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the e-mail of the second Green Team Hub to be held on March 22, 2016 at the Alexandria Township Municipal Building at 7:30P.M. Mayor, Diana Haywood mentioned that this is the same date of the EC regular meeting. It was discussed that either Mayor, Diana Haywood or Willard Reasoner may attend. Mayor, Diana Haywood gave a brief overview of what was discussed at the last Green Team meeting on January 25, 2016. She explained that there were representatives from Sustainable Jersey at the meeting.

5.

She noted that this was the first “Leadership Kickoff Meeting” they had, which also included Nathan Charron from HART.

She explained that this is the first start up “Hub” meeting in Hunterdon County that would include the five surrounding municipalities. They talked about someday having a Green Fair, which would include all the municipalities and that they would all obtain credit points for attending. She explained that this would be a big incentive for each Green Team. Mayor, Diana Haywood noted that there is money available by a grant, which a member from Alexandria is working on putting together a request for \$10,000 to do a Green Fair and other events, which will be submitted before the deadline. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer and the Commission members thought that it was great that the surrounding municipalities are getting their Green Teams together to work on Sustainable Jersey and obtaining points.

(11). Anti - Fracking Ordinance – Update of December 28, 2015 Amendments

There was a discussion regarding the draft ordinance being sent to the surrounding municipalities to consider adopting for their towns. It was suggested by the Commission that the draft ordinance also be sent to East and West Amwell, as well as, Hopewell Township. Mayor Diana Haywood noted that the only response she knows of at this time is from Alexandria Township. She explained that she attended their Township Committee meeting and talked about it, which she stated they seemed receptive. She noted that Alexandria Township’s Environmental Commission was planning to bring it up at their next meeting. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that she was able to attend their Environmental Commission meeting. She explained why Kingwood was interested in adopting this ordinance and why we would like the other townships to also adopt this ordinance, which will make more of an impact. She noted that their EC members planned to request to their Township Committee to adopt this ordinance.

The Commission Members commented on the great job Lois Voronin did on the ordinance.

MEL – Update

Update from Gail Ashley

- (12). Salt Plume Supplement Remedial Investigation Report and Proposal for Exception Classification Area
- (13). Map of Properties MEL Provided Bottled Water
- (14). Map of MEL Monitoring Wells
- (15). Ground Water Contours Deep Wells List Near MEL
- (16). MEL Chemicals – Right to Know Survey

Gail Ashley noted that she will talk about the items listed above regarding MEL at next month’s meeting in March. She requested to review the past several years filed for the Right to Know Surveys for MEL. It was recommended that the MEL Chemicals Right to Know Surveys be listed on the March meeting agenda.

PennEast Pipeline: - Update

6.

Project Update for the PennEast Pipeline Project

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer note that a new map of the Pipeline route has been released. The Commission reviewed the route over the overhead projector.

(17). Letter from Penn East to FERC – Feb 22, 2016

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(18). Updated Route Maps and Comparison Tables

The Commission Members commented on the concerns they have for the new route. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that this route impacts less wetlands and homes, but will affect the forests and preserved properties. They discussed several of the areas the pipeline will be going through.

(19). Land Owner Analysis Maps – Update

The Commission Members reviewed the land owner analysis maps. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted they are still waiting for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, (DEIS), which is actually produced by FERC. She explained that FERC is waiting for the information from Penn East Pipeline so they can work on the DEIS report.

(20). USGS – Quad Maps Update

The Commission Members reviewed.

Positive Meeting in Delaware Twp.

Sandra McNicol noted that the EC Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer attended a positive meeting in Delaware Township. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained it was a really good meeting, which consisted of the HALT Group and the Citizens Against the Pipeline had a press event, which included approximately 70 people and lasted about an hour. She reviewed the meeting to everyone.

Horseshoe Bend Park – Update

Pollinator Meadow Project – Update

Sandra McNicol arrived at the meeting at 9:00P.M.and noted that she is working on making the signs.

Site Plan Review

7.

Open Space

Sandra McNicol – Update on Open Space and Agricultural Meeting of February 2, 2016

Sandra McNicol noted the Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committees had their first meeting including via zoom, which started by a member that could not attend the meetings due to business traveling. The Committees asked her to research how it could be done, and she did. Sandra McNicol explained that she found guidelines and supplied them to the Township Committee and to the OP/AG Committees. She explained that the meeting went very well and they could see the member of the overhead projector and hear her very well also.

Sandra McNicol explained that there are funds available from the State, which involves obtaining properties specific to the bluffs along the Delaware River. She noted that the township will be working on spending the money by looking to find a piece of land to spend it on, which would be open space land. She explained that there are also a number of farms in various stages in the works and maybe preserved in the next few months. She noted that most of this is handled through the state.

News article – Legislature Need to Act Once More to Block Dangerous Flood Hazard Rules

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed an article regarding the state Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP's) proposed Flood Hazard Rules are a major rollback to clean water and flooding protections. These rules have been opposed by environmental groups and governmental agencies and threaten drinking water and open space. The Legislature overwhelming passed a bipartisan Oversight Resolution saying that these rules violate legislative intent of the Clean Water Act and other laws. This resolution gave DEP 30 days to act and the DEP has decided to go forward with the rules unchanged. Now the Legislature needs to step up again and block these rules for good by passing the resolution once more.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer asked the Commissioners if they should the write a memo to our Legislatures, Assemblyman John DiMaio and Assemblyman Erik Peterson to encourage them to do this and to stop the changes.

It was moved by Lois Voronin, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to allow the EC Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer to write a memo to the State Legislatures, Assemblyman John DiMaio and Assemblyman Erik Peterson regarding this matter.

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

Adjournment

It was moved by Gail Ashley, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 P.M. All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia L. Keller, Secretary

