

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**June 28, 2016**

**7:30 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:42P.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  
Diana Haywood  
Lois Voronin  
Sandra McNicol  
David Posey  
Timothy Cahalin

**Absent**

Joe Zgurzynski  
Cynthia Niciecki  
Gail Ashley  
Willard Reasoner

**Public Comments/Privilege of the Floor**

There were no public comments.

**Minutes**

(1). Approval of May 24, 2016 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2016 Environmental Commission Regular meeting.

2.

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

### **Correspondence**

#### **(2). Letter from Warren County Soil Conservation District – Re: Assistance to Farmers**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the letter from WCSCD. The Warren County Soil Conservation District has received a grant to help give assistance to farmers for self-certified animal waste water management plans. This is to minimize agriculture non-point source pollution on livestock operations by encouraging farmers to implement the best management practices designed by the Department of Agriculture. Self-certified plans are required for farms with 8-299 animal units (1,000 pounds = 1 AU), as well as for farms receiving or applying 142 or more tons of animal waste per year. Farms with less than 7 animal units or receiving/applying less than 142 tons/acre are encouraged, but not required, to have a self-certified plan.

The district is offering assistance to anyone in need of the plan in Warren, Hunterdon, Sussex, Morris and Somerset Counties. This service is being offered confidentially and free of charge so farming operations can easily address agriculture non-point source pollution and comply with the New Jersey Criteria and Standards for Animal Waste Management.

The Environmental Commission requested that this be forwarded to the Agriculture Advisory Committee to discuss at their next meeting.

There was a suggestion to bring this information to Community Day to handout to the public.

#### **(3). Letter from the New Jersey Conservation Foundation – Re: Penn East Pipeline**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed and read parts of the letter aloud. She feels that this is a good letter, because it brings everyone up to speed on what is going on regarding the Pipeline. She noted that the New Jersey Conservation Foundation and Stoney Brook-Millstone Watershed Association filed a complaint and motion with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) seeking an evidentiary hearing before an administrative judge assessing the need for the proposed Penn East Pipeline. She stated that this means that FERC has to demand real evidence that the gas in the pipelines are needed, because Penn East is saying that they have someone to buy the gas, but it is for themselves and does not mean that there is a need for it. Therefore, they are demanding FERC to relook at this proposal.

Lois Voronin noted she has an article she will be sending to the Commissioners regarding pipelines in New Jersey from the Hunterdon Democrat, which it described the damages caused by the pipeline. She noted that these companies are linked to Penn East Pipeline.

3.

Debbie Kratzer reviewed the two following articles she sent to the Commission regarding pipelines: Get Your Pipeline Out of My Yard / The PennEast Pipeline Made Me Do It: Why My Family and I Moved to Solar Energy

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that FERC has still not filed the Environmental Impact Statement. She stated she has not heard anything from the landowners that have taken the PennEast Pipeline to court for trespassing.

Sandra McNicol noted that Maureen Synchron has been trying to find out the historical aspect regarding the PennEast Pipeline and if it will be going through any historical sites. She noted that Maureen Synchron has requested historical information for the PennEast Pipeline, but she has not received anything yet. Sandra McNicol will try to obtain any information from those that were going to receive it. She noted she would like to look into it and try to find out what she can. She stated that she will bring this up at the next Open Space/Ag Committee meeting and hopefully get information from the farmers on the committee. The historical sites need to be addressed by the township.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted what the DRVC has proposed a long time ago. She stated that PennEast must apply to the DRVC about the water withdraw and discharge. She stated that the DRVC has decided to have their own hearings, which is a good step so members of the Environmental Commission can go and speak and ask questions. She explained that two weeks ago she and a few other members went to a DRVC meeting and briefly reviewed it.

(4). Application for 2016 Environmental Excellent Award Notice

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. It was noted that there is nothing to nominate at this time, maybe next year.

**Notice of upcoming meetings/workshops: Reminder of Dates**

(5). Celebration of Native Plants Invitation from D&R Canal State Park and Delaware River Greenway Partnership – Tuesday, June 28, 2016 12:30pm-2:30pm

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

**Recycling News and Update**

Update from Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol

Sandra McNicol reported she is working on the Recycling Report. She reported that the third clean-up day occurred on June 11<sup>th</sup>, there will be one on July 9<sup>th</sup> and the last one to be on October 8<sup>th</sup>. She is working on the Clean Communities report for the end of the year. She noted recycling is down this year compared to last year. She stated something to do on the County level. Sandra McNicol commented on what she would like to spend Clean Communities funds towards. She stated she is thinking of purchasing fountains that can refill plastic water bottles.

4.

She got the idea from the ANJEC newsletter and saw the idea. She described the water fountain and how it would work.

She will speak to Mark Petro regarding taking a survey of the outlets and inlets around the township. She can purchase drainage covers so to prevent plastic bottles and other items from going into the river.

### **Reports**

(6). Freshwater Wetlands Notice – Block 21, Lot 1

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

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

N/A

### **New Business**

(7). Environmental Commission – Annual Report Draft

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that she will work on this for next month.

### **Water Testing for Arsenic and Boron - Update of Test Results**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer asked if anyone has heard anything yet. Sandra McNicol commented that there have been no results submitted from the State as of this date.

(8). Resolution No. 2015 – 71 Hunting Lottery Authorization – Need the Environmental Commissions Opinion – Review Whether it May Impact this Resolution

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed a resolution from last year for the Hunting Season. She noted that Committeeman Dodds asked her to review this to see if the Environmental Commission has an opinion on hunting that might impact this resolution for the upcoming season. The Environmental Commission had no objections or conflicts to the hunting program and for the areas stated. They feel that there is an over populated amount of deer in the area. They feel it is a good idea to allow hunting on township properties to eliminate the large amount of deer.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to send the Township Committee a memo from the Environmental Commission stating they have no objections to hunting on township properties and to include the newly purchased “Horseshoe Bend East” on Horseshoe Bend Road to the resolution.

5.

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

(8a). Amount to Be Approved by the EC for the Professional Services, Senior Associate Engineer for .25 hours @ \$135.00 an Hour - Re: Tumble Partnership, LLP – Amount to Be Approved \$33.75

The Commission requested that Secretary Keller find out from C.F.O. D. Laudenbach if she received information for the services, and to speak to the township engineer to find out why these services from the engineer were needed.

**Old Business**

Update on Chris Citgo

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. There was a brief discussion on the concerns of pollution surrounding the garage and homes nearby.

**Sustainable Aquaculture Systems, Inc.**

Updates

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed a meeting several members of the EC and Planning Board Attorney attended, which was a land use meeting at Franklin Township. It was noted that another meeting has been scheduled to give Kingwood Township a chance to ask questions and review the information that was submitted to Franklin Township from the Sustainable Aquaculture Systems, Inc. The public hearing is scheduled to be on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Franklin Township Municipal Building.

**Action Items:**

Sustainable Jersey – Kingwood Green Team Update

Nothing to report at this time.

(9). Ordinance 18-07-2016 Banning the Use of Hydraulic Fracturing In Kingwood Township and Amending and Supplementing the “Code of the Township of Kingwood” In Connection Therewith – Adopted on June 2, 2016

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the ordinance banning the use of hydraulic fracturing in Kingwood Township that the Township Committee adopted on June 2, 2016.

(10). 2016 – 08 Ordinance Banning the Use of Hydraulic Fracturing In – Franklin Twp.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

6.

(11). 2016 - 04 Ordinance Banning the Use of Hydraulic Fracturing In – Alexandria Twp.

Alexandria Twp. Committee introduced the ordinance and they would like someone from the Kingwood EC to attend the Alexandria Twp. Committee Public Hearing for their Final Adoption and Public Hearing for the Ordinance second reading on Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:35P.M.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. Debbie Kratzer and Lois Voronin offered to attend the meeting on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the Alexandria Twp. Municipal Bldg. to explain the ordinance to the Township Committee and to answer any of their questions.

(12). Attached E-mail from the Clerk from Alexandria explaining)

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(12a). Letter from Alexandria – Change of Date of Public Hearing – Now on Wed, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:35P.M.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

**MEL – Update**

Update from Gail Ashley/Tim Cahalin

Gail Ashley was absent this evening. Timothy Cahalin talked about the files he obtained from the NJDEP regarding MEL. He expressed his concerns regarding the radio activity that they have in the reports of the property and would like to look into this further. He would like to draft a letter to the NJDEP asking that they do new testing on all the wells near MEL. He feels that it should determine what the levels of chemicals are at this time. He feels that the homes surrounding MEL may have salt, but also uranium and that they should be tested and if needed remediated.

It was moved by Timothy Cahalin, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to agree to write a letter to the NJDEP from the Environmental Commission requesting that they test onsite and offsite wells for radio activity as a result of information regarding files from the NJDEP regarding MEL.

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

Timothy Cahalin offered to write a letter to the NJDEP and let the EC review the letter before it is sent out.

7.

### **Slacktown Well**

(13). Copy of E-mails from Mary MacConnell and Hunterdon County Re: Slacktown Rd. Well

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. Sandra McNicol had several comments on what she saw of the well on Slacktown Road. She feels that there must have been a lot of pressure in the well, because a hole was drilled in the side of the pipe and now it's leaking all over. She expressed that she is still disturbed after hearing from Anthony Hauck regarding the wells along Wagon Wheel Drive and how the water levels have dropped drastically. She wonders if this well on Slacktown Road is the cause of those wells drastically dropping. The Environmental Commission feels that this well should not be leaking and would like it stopped. Debbie Kratzer stated that she will be in touch with the representative from the County to let them know how the Commission feels and that the well should be capped, locked and numbered. David Posey feels that the County should contact the NJDEP to inquire about these wells. Timothy Cahalin feels that there should be a letter sent out to the County Board of Health, Environ, and the NJDEP.

(14). Copy of Pictures sent by the County of the Slacktown Rd. Well

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

### **PennEast Pipeline: - Update**

The PennEast Pipeline was discussed earlier in the meeting.

### **Horseshoe Bend Park – Update**

Pollinator Meadow Project – Update

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that the plants are growing despite the fact that there has been no rain. Sandra McNicol discussed how things are coming along regarding the sign for the Pollinator Meadow. She discussed the need to implement a written plan to serve for the future regarding maintenance of the fields. She will make some suggestions of which fields to be cut, and which ones should be left alone for the butterflies.

### **Site Plan Review**

N/A

### **Open Space**

Sandra McNicol – Update on Open Space and Agricultural Meeting of June 6, 2016

Sandra McNicol reviewed the dedication of the Horseshoe Bend Park new property. She noted that Liz Schmid has a few properties that are interested in preservation.

### **Adjournment**

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Diana Haywood and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:25P.M. All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cynthia L. Keller, Secretary