

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 23, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:40 p.m. Chairperson Deborah 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 December 21, 2017, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Express Times on December 14, 2017. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on December 14, 2017.

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

Deborah Kratzer
Gail Ashley
Cynthia Niciecki
Sandra McNicol
Lois Voronin
Maureen Synchronick

Absent

Mara Tippett
Timothy Cahalin
Ralph Celebre
William Reasoner

Public Comments

Cynthia Niciecki showed the Committee a video of an award ceremony where she, and husband Jack, were honored by the NJ Audubon Society receiving the "Richard Kane" award for their conservation efforts. Eric Stiles, president and CEO of NJ Audubon Society, presented an award to the Nicieckis for the changes they've made to the timing of haying the fields on their farm which allows both Bobolinks and Meadowlarks to complete their breeding season without disruption. This was a personal life decision to put conservation of these species first. The Committee applauded Cynthia and Jack Niciecki for their commitment to conservation.

Approval of August 28, 2018 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Gail Ashley and seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to approve the August 28, 2018 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes as corrected.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye	- Kratzer, Ashley, McNicol, Voronin
Nay	- None
Abstain	- Niciecki
Absent	- Tippett, Cahalin, Reasoner, Celebre

Correspondence

ANJEC News
Reviewed

DEP News Release 9-14-18
Reviewed

DEP News Release 9-20-18
Reviewed

Training for Environmental Commissions

Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions November 3, 2018

Notice of upcoming meetings/workshops: Reminder of Dates

Deborah Kratzer shared the below list of upcoming free meetings/webinars:

October 25th - Webinar sponsored by the River Keepers Association at 7:00pm.
Topic - Ecological Aspect of Streams and Streamside Forest Buffers.

October 29th - Webinar sponsored by the Association of State Wetland Managers from 3:00-5:00pm
Topic – HDV (Horizontal/Directional Drilling) Understanding Context When Reviewing Oil and Gas Pipeline Applications.

November 13th - Meeting at the North County Library located in Clinton
Topic - Native Plants as Resources for Migratory Birds.

Reports

DEP – Sustainable Aquaculture Systems Re: Freshwater Wetlands General Permit 715 Pittstown Rd, Block 15.01, Lot 1

Lois Voronin stated that she had requested information from Franklin Township regarding Sustainable Aquaculture. She specifically asked for planning board minutes over the past three years but was only given copies of minutes for five planning board meetings over that period of time. Ms. Voronin asked Committee Secretary, Michele Tipton-Walters, if all municipal meetings must be recorded as written minutes. Ms. Tipton-Walters stated that the state of New Jersey requires municipalities to record all public meetings in minute format. All minutes are to be printed, kept as permanent record and accessible to the public.

Ms. Voronin will contact Franklin Township again to obtain more copies of minutes than previously released.

HCSD Report of compliance 32 Barbertown-Idell Rd. Block 2, Lot 14.06
Reviewed

LOI – Pauch, 323 Barbertown-dell Rd., Black 29, Lot 22.02
Reviewed

SADC Memo – Soil and Water Conservation Policy P-48
Reviewed. Debra Kratzer noted that this Memo addresses preservation issues. Since environmental issues are not addressed in the policy this Committee had no input.

Action Items

Review Environmental Commission membership regarding meeting quorum
Committee discussed possibility of new members/alternate members.
Item tabled to November meeting to review expired terms.

Old Business

N/A

Other Matters

Ident-a-Shred Event Resolution No. 2018-108
Reviewed.

Free Radon Test Kits Available Hunterdon Public Health
Reviewed

Recycle News and Update

Sandra McNicol reported that Hunterdon County will hold an Electronic Disposal event on November 10th and a Hazardous Waste Disposal event on November 17th. It was noted that Best Buy and Staples will also accept electronic items for disposal at no charge.

Horseshoe Bend Park – News and Update

Maureen Syrnick reported that the Fall Festival went well for the event's first year.

Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting News and Update

No Update

Luxfer/MEL – Update

Deborah Kratzer, Gail Ashley and Lois Voronin are still working on transcribing December 4th MEL Special Meeting minutes.

Ms. Ashley has stayed in touch with the engineering firm that is representing Luxfer and the DEP case manager. The radon spill remediation is being done and is to be retested in spring 2019

PennEast Pipeline Update

Deborah Kratzer, presented a 2018 Fairleigh Dickinson University Poll which concluded that 2 out of 3 New Jersey voters say that gas is not “clean” energy. Of particular concern are the leaks which are to be expected from the pipeline.

Also reviewed was a diagram that represents current existing pipeline, what is used for New Jersey and excess pipeline which runs through New Jersey but shipped out to other states. In theory if we had an exceptionally cold weather over a long period of time the excess production could be redirected back to New Jersey.

Maureen Syrnick mentioned that the sitting judge ruling on the PennEast case seems to be holding off on making a decision. It is suspected that he is awaiting the ruling on the New Jersey State vs. the Federal Government regarding whether or not the Federal Government can take state land via imminent domain.

Adjournment

It was moved by Gail Ashley and seconded by Sandra McNicol to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 pm. All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.

Respectfully submitted by,

Michele Tipton-Walters
Secretary