CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:31PM Debbie Kratzer, Chairperson, read aloud the following notice requirements.

Notice Requirement

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 on January 31, 2019 and the Courier News on January 27, 2019. A copy of the notice was telefaxed to the Express Times and posted at the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on January 23, 2019.

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Absent</th>
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<tr>
<td>Maureen Syrnick</td>
<td>Gail Ashley</td>
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<td>Debbie Kratzer</td>
<td>Mara Tippet</td>
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<td>Ralph Celebre</td>
<td>Timothy Cahalin</td>
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<td>Lois Voronin</td>
<td>Cynthia Niciecki</td>
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<td>Betsy Combs</td>
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<td>Sandy McNicol</td>
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Privilege of the Floor

Colleen Smith, Rutgers PhD Candidate, presented the results of her bee research regarding pollination and biodiversity on Forest bees performed at Horseshoe Bend Park.

Ms. Smith reported that 87% of all flowering plants use animals for reproduction and over 2/3 crop species use animal mediated pollination. Those species include bats, birds and small mammals but the primary pollinators are flying insects such as bees and moths.

There are 20,000 bee species worldwide, 4,000 within the United States and 400 in New Jersey. Research shows that the greatest threat to wild bees is development. Bees need forest habitat for food, nesting etc.

Forest bees are smaller than urban bees and tend to be solitary. They come out in adult stage during spring. Agriculture and urban bees are larger, social and emerge in summer.
Ms. Smith’s research was focused particularly on how forest bees are affected by forest age and size. Her study included 8 mature large forests, 8 mature small forests, 8 young large forests and 8 young small forests. Horseshoe Bend Park was included in the study as a large young forest. Old forests were those where the majority of the study area was forested in the 1930 aerial photos (i.e. over 88 years old).

**The Results of Horseshoe Bend Park bee study:**

- In Horseshoe Bend Park, 288 bees covering 37 species were caught. Of those there were 16 species of forest bees.
- Horseshoe Bend Park has slightly more species of forest bees than comparative parks.
- The most common bees found in Horseshoe Bend Park were Spurred Carpenter, Maine Blueberry and Parasitic Cuckoo bee species.
- Overall results of this study showed that forest area increases forest bee diversity but that forest age does not affect forest bee diversity.

**Conclusion:** Large forests of any age are important for forest bee conservation.

Ms. Smith recommended that people can help bee conservation by planting flowers, reducing the use of pesticides (especially insecticides), provide nest sites and only mow your lawn every two or three weeks to help support bees.

Girl Scout Troop 81176 came to hear Ms. Smith’s presentation to learn more about bees to help them with their Bee Beautification for Bronze project. They read an article that said there would not be a produce aisle at the grocery store without bees. The Troop has purchased some bee barns and are making more out of recycled materials. The barns will be available for sale during a public event to educate community members on Thursday August 29th at 6:30PM Kingwood Park.

**Approval of June 25, 2019 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes**

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, and seconded by Ralph Celebre and carried to approve the June 25, 2019 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.

**Roll Call Vote:**
- Aye - Kratzer, McNicol, Celebre, Combs
- Nay - None
- Abstain - None
- Absent - Tippett, Ashley, Cahalin

**Correspondence**
ANJEC Meeting use of disposable plastics.
Reviewed
Commission would like to see some model ordinances regarding plastics.

**Reports**
NJDEP No Further Action Letter – 423 Oak Grove Rd. Block 8 Lot 4
Reviewed

Bayer-Risse TWA (Carried from June 25th Meeting) Report include NJDEP forms WQM003 and WQM006A.
Forms reviewed

**Site Plan Review**
Block 51 Lot 16, 107 Byram Lane, Expansion of non-conforming use – demolish existing building and construct elevated dwelling in the Byram Colony.
Reviewed.

Block 17 Lot 15, 832 Route 12, Galleria Construction - Request for extension of application for preliminary site plan approval
Reviewed.

Boundary Line Adjustment Block 2 Lots 2 and 5, 235 & 231 Oak Summit Road
Reviewed.

**Other Matters**
Roots for Rivers Report submitted by D.Kratzer
The tree planting project had a very good survival rate with a loss of only 6 of the 350 trees planted

NJDOT Rockfall Mitigation Outline for August 1, 2019 Township Committee Meeting
Reviewed.
The Commission strongly encourages residents of Kingwood to come out to this meeting to find out what the DOT plans for Route 29 Devils Tea Table area.

**Recycling News and Update**
S. McNicol discussed the closing of the recycle depot on August 1st.

**Penn East Pipeline Update:**
Next local meeting to be held in September.

**Adjournment**
It was moved by Lois Voronin and seconded by Betsy Combs and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:15PM.

All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.

Respectfully submitted by,
Michele Tipton-Walters
Secretary