



Kingwood Township Environmental Commission Annual Report for 2011

Grants

ANJEC Smart Growth Grant for Open Space & Recreation Plan.

- Completed Open Space & Recreation Plan (written by Banisch Associates) May 2011.

Recycling

An EC member is the recycling coordinator (Cynthia Niciecki):

- Attended Hunterdon County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) meetings.
- Was a member of recycling subcommittee of SWAC.
- Collected & submitted recycling figures to the state: 2010 tonnage report: 4,780 tons (more than twice the amount reported in 2009, which was 2,284 tons).
- Coordinated pick-up of recycling bins when full—about every 1 to 2 weeks & removed non-recyclables when possible.
- Added electronics recycling container (provided free of charge by DonJon) *Note - A New NJ law requires that electronics be recycled and not placed in garbage.*
- Continued scrap metal dumpster (Twp gets paid for metal by M&A).
- Continued clothing/shoe bin (free collection by a non-profit, Planet Aid).
- Discontinued battery recycling due to fire hazard (and no longer accepted by Hunterdon County).
- Event recycling receptacles—used at Community Day & available for other events.
- Submitted quarterly municipal recycling report to Hunterdon County (required by County).

EC members volunteered for Saturday morning hours. Removed non-recyclables when possible.

Updated recycling instruction sheet, which was mailed to all residents & available on the website.

Updated an alphabetical list of recyclables and where/how they may be recycled for the website.

Camera purchased and installed at the Recycling Center.

Open Space and Parks & Recreation

Worked with the Open Space Committee and Parks & Recreation Committee to update of the Open Space & Recreation Plan (written by consultant Banisch Associates) (completed May 2011).

Trash Handling on Open Space Properties - purchased "Carry in/Carry out" signs purchased and posted at Horseshoe Bend Park, Lockatong Preserve and Idell Preserve.

Provided support, advice and labor for an Eagle Scout Project at Kingwood Park – installation of a Native Plant Rain Garden.

Assisted with trail work day at the new Horseshoe Bend Park 10/1/2011.

Ordinances/Resolutions

Supported Planning Board adoption of Riparian Zone Ordinance & Steep Slopes Ordinance (both adopted 4/7/2011).

Provided assistance and comments on drafts of the following (not adopted yet):

- Environmental Impact and Assessment/Threatened and Endangered Ordinance;
- Wind Energy Ordinance;

- Discussed development of driveway procedures (to avoid environmental problems associated with inappropriately sited driveways, e.g. In wetlands)

Anti-idling resolution adopted by Township Committee; wrote letter to Kingwood Twp School about anti-idling.

Outreach/Education

Sponsored speakers on environmental topics:

- 03/22/11- "Underground Petroleum Storage Tanks Loans & Grants for Removal" by David Posey, the supervisor of the NJDEP Bureau of Contract & Fund Management, Underground Storage Tank Fund.
- 05/24/11- "Whitetail Deer and Deer Hunting in NJ and the role of the Division of Fish and Wildlife" by Larry Herrighty, the Assistant Director of the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Kingwood Township School

- Continued environmental education/stream monitoring with 6th grade students (spring & fall).
- Presentation 3/17/2011 - "What does the Kingwood EC do?" for 6th grade students.

Completed 10 points of Stormwater education projects, as required by NJDEP.

Expanded information on Kingwood Twp website on recycling, native plants and rain gardens.

Community Day 9/17/11—information on NJWSA project, native species, arsenic in ground water, etc.

- 3 separate (but adjacent) tables for Env. Commission, Open Space and Recycling information.
- Discounted water tests and septic pumping.
- Dedication of completed Native Plant Rain Garden in Kingwood Park.

Letter response sent 7/26/2011 to memo received from Barbara Schau about deer.

Reviewed MEL Quarterly Homeowner Well Sampling Results.

Site Plan Review

Summarized and presented information to the Planning Board concerning environmental features on the following sites proposed for development:

- Effisolar Energy Corporation (Perrotti, Route 519) W2-083 (Block 23 Lot 11) Route 519 - EC review on 5/11/11
- Point Breeze Solar Farm Alethea Cleantech Advisors, LLC (Block 21 Lot 1) - 550 Barbertown-Point Breeze Road - EC review on 2/28/11

Issues

Surface Water

- Cooperated with and supported implementation project(s) for Lockatong and Wickecheoke Watersheds Restoration and Protection Plan (with NJ Water Supply Authority). This consists of pre- and post- monitoring and assessments for stormwater control projects in a rural watershed, a statewide first-of-its-kind. Project website: <http://www.raritanbasin.org/lockwick.html>

Ground Water

- Coordinated well testing and septic pumping during community day.
- Arsenic in Ground Water - met with Stuart Braman of Columbia University – Doing Research on Arsenic

Magnesium Elektron, Inc (MEL) Block 21, Lot 7.01 (NJDEP Site ID # 024980)

- Reviewed report called "Salt Plume Supplemental Remediation Investigation Report and Proposal for Classification Exception Area"
- There are two ongoing issues:
 - (1) Salt plume affecting domestic water supplies
 - (2) Radiogenic nuclides in sediments in ditch leading to Wickecheoke Creek

Sustainability

- Nominated Kingwood Twp for 2010 Hunterdon County Planning Board Planning and Design Award for "Solar Renewable Energy System for the Kingwood Township Garage"
- Letter to NJDEP 2/27/11 concerning river impacts/ hot dog man/ tubing/ jet boats.
- Letter to Kingwood Twp School 12/9/2011 about anti-idling law & educational materials.
- Environmental Commission now receives meeting packages electronically to reduce waste.
- Began investigating feasibility/interest in composting ("Rocket") for food wastes.

Invasive Species

- Joined the NJ Invasive Species Strike Team (membership good through 11/2012)

2011 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

Deborah Kratzer (Chairwoman)

David Posey

Lois Voronin (Vice-Chairwoman)

Jerry Fields (resigned in April)

Elaine Niemann, Committeewoman

Joseph Zgurzynski, **Alt. #1**

Gail M. Ashley

Richard Abbott, **Alt. #2**

Sandra McNicol

Cynthia L. Keller, Secretary

Cynthia Niciecki