

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 23, 2010
7:30PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:40 P.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 and published in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News on February 4th, 2010, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Star Ledger, and the Express Times on January 29th, 2010. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building and Post Office on January 29th, 2010.

In order to ensure full public participation in this meeting, all members of this Committee or Board, 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

Absent

Debbie Kratzer
Lois Voronin (arrived at 7:45pm)
Elaine Niemann
Gail Ashley
Nicole Voigt
Cynthia Niciecki
Sandra McNicol
David Posey
Joseph Zgurzynski

Richard Abbott

Approval of the January 26th, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Motion and adoption of minutes of January 26, 2010 Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission

It was moved by Nicole Voigt, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to adopt the January 26, 2010 Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes for the Environmental Commission.

2.

Discussion and Corrections: The Commission members reviewed the minutes. Mrs. Niemann noted that on the front page of the minutes is a typing error. The time started should state the meeting started at 7:38PM and not 8:38PM.

Correction: Page#7 Under Annual Report/Newsletter for 2009
Following the discussion of the Newsletter it should be noted that Nicole Voigt left the meeting at 8:30PM.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye	-	L. Voronin, G. Ashley, N. Voigt, C. Niciecki, S. McNicol, D. Posey
Nay	-	None
Abstain	-	D. Kratzer, J. Zgurzynski
Absent	-	R. Abbott

Correspondence

N/A

Reports

Notice from the NJDEP – Bureau of Northern Field Operations – Notice of Deficiency
RE: 362 Oak Grove Road, Pittstown NJ 08867 Charles Gordon

David Posey explained that since he works for the N.J.D.E.P. he looked this case up and found out that Mr. Gordon has a leaky underground storage tank. He also determined that Mr. Gordon has never applied for financial assistance, which is available to homeowners that have leaky underground storage tanks. Mr. Posey has offered to the Environmental Commission to call Mr. Gordon and speak to him about this, and also send him an application to apply for the financial assistance. The Environmental Commission members thought this would be a very good way to help Mr. Gordon.

Debbie Kratzer Reports on Seminar “Ruin Beneath the Oaks: Forests in Crisis at Drew and Beyond

Debbie Kratzer noted that the meeting was canceled, and then rescheduled and she was unable to attend the meeting. She noted that the meeting was about how the forests are not regenerating. Mrs. Kratzer will be in contact with the instructor to have her send some information on the subject. Elaine Niemann suggested that a handout be sent to other Environmental Commissions in the surrounding areas get together with Kingwood to possibly have a roundtable meeting on this subject.

3.

Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District

N/A

Recycling Update/Coordinator Cynthia Niciecki

Volunteer needed for Saturday, March 13th, 2010 - (David Posey)

The following is a Report for February 23, 2010 by Cynthia Niciecki:

Cindy Niciecki started out by thanking Sandy McNicol for helping out at the Saturday, February 13th Recycling day. She explained that a letter was sent to the businesses in Kingwood requesting their recycling tonnage information for 2009. She stated that responses are starting to come back. She noted that she will be working on the Tonnage Grant application to the State for 2009, which is due on April 30, 2010. She noted that she attended the SWAC meeting at the County along with Elaine. They said the State signed the amendment to the County's Solid Waste and Recycling Plan. The next County Hazardous Waste Collection day is Saturday, March 13, 2010 from 9:00A.M. till 1:00P.M. The household batteries collected at the Kingwood Township Recycling depot will be taken to the County. Also tv and computer components are being dropped off at the depot. We have no organized collection for these items. The next County Computer and electronics collection day is on Saturday, April 10, 2010 from 9:00A.M. till 1:00P.M. Mrs. Niciecki noted that she attended the Parks and Recreation meeting this month. She noted that she mentioned that she noticed there were no receptacles for recycling at the park on Community Day. She stated that they will provide them for this year's event.

Gail Ashley suggested that a mailing be sent out to all the residents to educate the residents on recycling, and to inform them of the negative things that happen when garbage is not recycled.

Prevention of Recyclables Blowing Around

The Commission discussed several solutions to the problem. Cynthia Niciecki noted that she is looking into a new vendor who may have covers over their containers to prevent this from happening. David Posey volunteered to work on Saturday, March 13th, at recycling.

Update of Recycling Instruction Sheet

Cynthia Niciecki noted that she will make the changes on the sheet and give them to Debbie Kratzer to make the changes. Then it will be all ready to complete the recycling calendar to be sent out in the annual mailing.

4.

Old Business

Copy of Letter from the New Jersey D.E.P. to Deborah Kratzer

Chairwoman D. Kratzer reviewed the letter in response to her letter. There was a very lengthy discussion on whether to inform the Planning Board on the information.

It was moved by L. Voronin, seconded by C. Niciecki and carried to write a memo to the Kingwood Township Planning Board to bring to their attention the difference of the date/revision of a plat that was submitted to the N.J.D.E.P. and suggesting that keep a copy on file.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	-	L. Voronin, G. Ashley, N. Voigt, C. Niciecki, D. Posey, D. Kratzer
	Nay	-	None
	Abstain	-	S. McNicol
	Absent	-	R. Abbott

Notice from ANJEC Dated November 24, 2009 re: Smart Growth Planning Grant Program / Notice from ANJEC - 2010 Smart Growth Planning Grants for Municipalities – Application Deadline Wed, March 31, 2010

Chairwoman D. Kratzer reviewed the notice. She explained that Banisch Associates have suggested that the Township fill out an application to do a sustainability plan. Elaine Niemann noted that there will be a meeting with the sustainability team and she will ask Angela Clerico about this application. This will also be addressed at the next Township Committee meeting to support the application for the grant by adopting a resolution. Chairwoman D. Kratzer would like this all to be done before the next environmental commission meeting.

ANJEC EQ Challenge Game

The Commission all agreed that a member with small children should take this home to try it out. Nicole Voigt offered to take the game home and play it with the children.

Open Space & Recreation Kingwood Land Use Plan – Community Survey

Chairwoman D. Kratzer explained that this is our current grant from ANJEC that they are now working on. She noted that they had a meeting on Saturday, February 20th, at the Kingwood Township School by inviting the public to come and give their input. She stated that the turnout was not as high as they would have liked, but several parents filled out the survey. D. Kratzer encouraged everyone to fill out the survey. This survey will be available for another month or so for residents to fill out.

5.

Review Report from Environ of MEL - Comments

Chairwoman D. Kratzer reviewed. She noted that she did not get a chance to review the report. Gail Ashley and Joe Zgurzynski did get a chance to review the report. They both explained what the report stated, and also they gave their comments. The Environmental Commission would like to have G. Ashley contact the N.J.D.E.P. to find out what they think about the report and would like their response.

Note: Nicole Voigt left the meeting at 8:35PM.

Objectives for 2010

Chairwoman Kratzer reviewed a draft of the objectives. The Commission hopes to accomplish many of the ideas on the list, and that each person take an interest in something they would like to work on. There was a discussion on arsenic and a suggestion that it would be a good idea to get information from other towns to find out what they do to inform their residents. Joe Zgurzynski shared information on pesticides and peach trees causing arsenic in ground water years ago. David Posey suggested that the Commission write a letter to David Spayd, from the N.J.D.E.P. regarding the peaches and pesticides causing the arsenic in the ground water to get more information on the subject. Sandra McNicol offered to speak to Mr. Spayd the next time she sees him.

Annual Report/Newsletter 2010 – Suggestions, Outlines, and Draft Articles for Inclusion

There was a discussion on the March mailing and what topics will be in the newsletter. Elaine Niemann, noted that if anyone has any other suggestions to please let her know. There will be information on the Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey in the newsletter.

Sustainable Jersey Program – Update

This was already discussed earlier in the minutes.

Deer Overpopulation – Updated

No discussion.

New Business

Minor Subdivision Application – Niblo J. Izzo – Block 28, Lot 11

No discussion this month.

6.

Right of Way Clearing Along Roads - The Lockatong Creek

There was a brief discussion on some clearing along the Lockatong Creek that the Road Department has been working on. The Commission feels that they should not be cutting back several trees and bushes. They do not want the Township to get in trouble by cutting things that they should not be cutting down. There was a suggestion by Sandra McNicol to go out and spray the trees that should not be touched.

Action Items:

Environmental Commission Site Plan Review

No reviews at this time.

Wastewater Management Plan

No new updates at this time.

Open Space

Open Space Member Sandra McNicol reviews Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting of February 4th, 2010.

Sandra McNicol reviewed an update of the February 4th meeting. She noted that a hike is planned for Saturday, April 24, 2010, and that there will be flyers advertising the hike time and place to meet. She noted she has spoken to Margaret Waldock from the Hunterdon County Land Trust regarding the Trestensky property, and stated that everything is on the right track.

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

No comments.

Adjournment

It was moved by Gail Ashley, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:07PM. **All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Cynthia L. Keller,
Secretary**