

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 27, 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 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Star Ledger, and the Express Times on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building and Post Office on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 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**

Debbie Kratzer  
Lois Voronin  
Sandy McNicol  
Nicole Voigt (left at 8:30pm)  
Cindy Niciecki  
Gail Ashley  
Richard Abbott  
David Posey

**Absent**

Joe Zgurzynski  
Elaine Niemann

**Privilege of the Floor**

Presentation by Zoltan Szabo a Geochemist with the U.S. Geological Survey, Dr. Gail Ashley a Professor of Earth and Planetary Science Rutgers University, and Debbie Kratzer re: Arsenic in Groundwater

The presentation started with Dr. Gail Ashley, Professor of Earth and Planetary Science, Rutgers University. Ms. Ashley put together a slide show on ground water in Kingwood. She spoke about the background of the situation of arsenic in Kingwood Township and explained the Hydrologic Cycle, Physiographic Provinces, the Piedmont Progress and the Surface Hydrology on a map of the Township.

2.

Everyone thanked Gail Ashley for her presentation on arsenic. Debbie Kratzer, Biologist and author of the award winning Environmental Resource Inventory of Kingwood, spoke to everyone about the aquifers throughout the Township. There are many different kinds of aquifers, such as, a Brunswick, a Lockatong aquifer, and a Diabase aquifer. Gail Ashley joined in and spoke about the bedrock geology and explained that arsenic is naturally occurring throughout the bedrock. She also explained about the Mesozoic Era, and what the Passaic and Lockatong formation was all about. She noted that arsenic in groundwater can be an issue and that the E.P.A. has lowered the drinking water standards from 50/ugl to 10/ugl effective January 2006. The N.J.D.E.P. lowered the drinking water standards to 5/ugls.

Mr. Zoltan Szabo a Geochemist, was present and spoke about arsenic, how it is formed in the ground rock, health risks from arsenic, and water treatments for private well pumps. He also gave an overview of the dangers of radon in the ground, dissolved oxygen and how this could have effect on people. He noted that there are several treatments for each problem. He also spoke of the study that he is conducting in Kingwood Township and the surrounding areas. He handed out information on ways residents could be a part of the study. Some helpful websites to look up for arsenic are the following:

[www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/arsenic/guide.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/arsenic/guide.htm)

[www.state.nj.us/dep/njgs/enviroed/infocirc/arsenic.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/njgs/enviroed/infocirc/arsenic.pdf)

[www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/health.htm](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/health.htm)

<http://nj.usgs.gov/>

<http://www.nj.gov/dep/rpp/download/urwater.pdf>

[www.nsf.org/business/drinkingwatertreatment/index.asp/program=drinkingwatTre](http://www.nsf.org/business/drinkingwatertreatment/index.asp/program=drinkingwatTre)

[www.kingwoodtownship.com/ktlinks#drinking%20](http://www.kingwoodtownship.com/ktlinks#drinking%20)

[www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/)

There was a question and answer period. Everyone thanked Mr. Szabor for a great lecture on arsenic in Kingwood. There were some requests from the audience for copies of the slide show that Mr. Szabo had shown. Mr. Szabor stated that he will have copies available to the public to have for their reference.

### **Approval of the March 23, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

#### **Motion and adoption of March 23, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission**

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission.

3.

Comments/Corrections: Cynthia Niciecki noted that she would like added to the minutes under: Recycling Update/Coordinator : Under reports that Cynthia Niciecki gave to the Commission (Second sentence to add: that Debbie Kratzer also helped with the Recycling Sheet and Calendar for 2010.

**Roll Call Vote:**

<b>Aye</b>	-	<b>D. Kratzer, L. Voronin, G. Ashley, C. Niciecki, S. McNicol, D. Posey</b>
<b>Nay</b>	-	<b>None</b>
<b>Abstain</b>	-	<b>None</b>
<b>Absent</b>	-	<b>N. Voigt</b>

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer thanked Lois Voronin for writing up the press release for the Presentation for the Groundwater Talks. It was advertised in the School KTS flyer, the website, and in the newspaper. Everyone thanked Lois for doing a great job on the notice.

### **Correspondence**

N/A

### **Reports**

Copy of Letter from Goldenbaum Bail Associates, Inc. re: Treatment Works Approval (TWA) Application for Charles Kirk – Block 17, Lot 17

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. David Posey stated that he looked into this property, and there is nothing he can add. He stated that this was issued by the N.J.D.E.P. Debbie Kratzer will follow up and contact the Engineering Company to find out what it is all about.

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

N/A

### **Recycling Update/Coordinator Cynthia Niciecki**

The following is a report Cynthia Niciecki read aloud to everyone:

Kingwood Recycling Coordinator's Report  
April 27, 2010

4.

First I want to thank Gail Ashley for her tremendous help on our Recycling Day this month. She cleaned up all the stuff that blew into the hedgerow and in the ditch. The bins fill up quickly. I check them often to remove unacceptable items. I am working on the tonnage report which is due on Friday. So far the numbers are up from Last year. The Girl Scouts might come on Recycling Day on May 8 to help out, but I still would appreciate a Volunteer from EC that day. Thank You. Cynthia Niciecki  
Everyone thanked Cynthia for her report.

Volunteer needed for Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010

David Posey volunteered to help out on May 8th, recycling Saturday.  
Lois Voronin volunteered to help out on June 12th, recycling Saturday.

Motion and Approval to Order and Purchase (2) New Recycling Metal Signs for the end of Driveway Entrance to Recycling and Union Road

The Commission discussed where the signs would be put up along the road. Secretary Keller explained that the signs are to be put up at the end of the driveway of the DPW entrance facing both sides of Union Road. The Commission feels that recycling signs should also be put up at the end of Union Road, and Barbertown Pt. Breeze Road. There was a discussion whether the road frontage was private property or if so many feet belonged to the Township. Secretary Keller will contact the DPW Supervisor to ask him if it is possible to put recycling signs up at the end of Union Rd., and Barbertown Pt. Brz. Road. The Commission will make a motion at the May meeting to order two addition signs if it is acceptable to put them up at the end of Union Road and Barbertown Pt. Brz. Road.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to order two recycling signs to be put up at the end of the driveway of the DPW facing both directions on Union Road.

**Roll Call Vote:**

<b>Aye</b>	-	<b>D. Kratzer, L. Voronin, G. Ashley, C. Niciecki, S. McNicol, D. Posey</b>
<b>Nay</b>	-	<b>None</b>
<b>Abstain</b>	-	<b>None</b>
<b>Absent</b>	-	<b>N. Voigt</b>

**Old Business**

Update: Water Testing through the Kingwood Township School

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer suggested that the Commission discuss how they are going to conduct the water testing for Arsenic through the Kingwood School.

5.

She explained that at last months meeting the Environmental Commission agreed to do something similar to the way Alexandria did their program. Sandra McNicol noted that she spoke with George Latham from NJ Analytical Labs in Pennington, and he stated that it was very expensive for them. He stated this was because they provided the bottles, labels, and staff time to mail the results to all the people. Sandra McNicol spoke to David Spayd from the N.J.D.E.P., and he suggested sending out arsenic information sheets to those homeowners who's results are high in arsenic. There was a discussion on the charge of the tests, and what our Township could get as a good price for tests for the residents of Kingwood. There was a lengthy discussion on how this will be handled. Debbie Kratzer noted that there are two ways to distribute the bottles, to give one to each student or to give one to the youngest child of each family. Sandra McNicol noted that the price should be lower than \$20.00 for each test. Lois Voronin will call Q.C. Labs to make arrangements for the testing. The dates for the testing will be May 20<sup>th</sup> to drop off the bottles or pick up at municipal building for those who do not have children, and to return the filled bottles on Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The Commission decided that if Q.C. Labs is not interested, they will go with Atlantic Analytical Laboratory Inc. This will be advertised in the K.T.S. Express, in the newspaper, and on the web site. Sandra McNicol will be making the flyer of information to be handed out.

Open Space & Recreation Plan – preliminary draft has been submitted by Banisch Associates – status of surveys

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She stated that Elaine Niemann was working with the survey, and the Commission will wait to speak with Mrs. Niemann.

ANJEC 2010 Smart Growth Planning Grant submitted for development of a Sustainability Plan Element of the Master Plan – application was submitted - we will be notified in the end of May if we get the grant

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that the grant has been submitted to do a Sustainability Plan, and the Township will be waiting to hear at the end of May.

Sustainable Jersey Program – Update

Elaine Niemann not present to report.

Deer Overpopulation – Update

Sandra McNicol noted that she went to the County Round Table on the strike force. She noted that in the fall they will have another Round Table on Deer Overpopulation. She asked everyone to keep an eye open to watch for the date.

6.

**New Business**

Draft - Letter to thank Boy Scout Troop 251 for trail work at Locketong WMA

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed a draft letter she prepared for the Commission to review. The Commission members all approved the letter. Sandra McNicol suggested that the troop leaders name be added to the letter. She noted that Richard Dodds organized for the scouts to be a part of the trail making.

It was moved by Gail Ashley, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to approve the letter written by Debbie Kratzer to the Boy Scouts, and for the letter to be sent to the troop master to share with the troop.

**Roll Call Vote:**

<b>Aye</b>	-	<b>D. Kratzer, L. Voronin, G. Ashley, C. Niciecki, S. McNicol, D. Posey</b>
<b>Nay</b>	-	<b>None</b>
<b>Abstain</b>	-	<b>None</b>
<b>Absent</b>	-	<b>N. Voig</b>

Maintenance of trail on Township property between school and park

The Commission discussed their concerns on the maintenance of the Park and School Walkway. They feel that the trail is becoming wider every time the Public Works Department trims the trees and bushes along the trail. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer asked Secretary Keller to look into the maintenance report and procedure for the walkway.

The Hunterdon County Planning Board will host a Breakfast Talk on Wednesday, May 26, 2010 from 7:30 AM to 9:30 AM. Please call (908) 788-1490 for further information or to RSVP. Please RSVP no later than Friday, May 21st, if you plan on attending

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that the Breakfast Talk will be about flooding in the County.

**Action Items:**

Environmental Commission Site Plan Review

None to review this month.

Ideas for Community Day (September 18, 2010)

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the following page she handed out:



8.

Gail Ashley will contact David Spayd from the D.E.P. to see if he knows anyone that may do exhibits for our Community Day.

#### Wastewater Management Plan

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that there is no update this month.

#### MEL – Updates

No updates this month.

#### **Open Space**

##### Open Space Member Sandra McNicol reviews Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting of April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Sandra McNicol member of the Open Space Advisory Committee noted that there was no Meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010, due to a lack of quorum. She stated that there is no update for Horseshoe Bend Road at this time. She did explain that the owner came to the Planning Board, and that there was a subdivision that was approved. She stated that the owner of the property has till May 1<sup>st</sup> to get all the requirements completed that was requested before a closing.

Lois Voronin commented on the Hike that took place at the Kugler Woods on April 24<sup>th</sup>. She stated it was a very nice hike and the trail was great. She explained that approximately 11 people showed up for the hike. Sandra McNicol noted that another hike will be planned in the fall.

#### **Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor**

Kevin Edwards, Employee from MEL was present and introduced himself. He explained that he works with the environmental issues of the company and that he was interested in the talk on arsenic this evening. The Commission thanked Mr. Edwards for coming.

Sandra McNicol explained that she attended a Round Table for the County regarding Invasion Species Strike Course. She explained the goal is to stop species and that they come out and access the community. They will be serving the N.J. areas in June and July. She stated that if the Commission decides to do this, they can take advantage of the internet, by making a request online. Mrs. McNicol read the requirements aloud. Member Richard Abbott noted that the Commission should be very careful, and look into the situation further before making any decisions at this time. The Commission will be looking into this a little further before joining.



9.

Draft Letter to Township Committee and Planning Board

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed a draft letter she prepared to review with the Commission members regarding Block 50, Lot 9 the HIG property along Route 29, which the Township owns. There was a brief discussion on the possibility of the property being sold to someone for commercial use. The Commission members feel they would like to keep it a commercial free property. The members discussed whether to send the letter to the Board and Committee members. They feel that it's best to research the sale of the property first before sending the letter, and if there is still time maybe send comments by next months meetings.

Adjournment

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:40P.M. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller,  
Secretary