

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
September 28, 2010
7:30PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:35 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.

ROLL CALL

Present

Debbie Kratzer
Lois Voronin
Sandra McNicol
Cindy Niciecki
David Posey
Gail Ashley
Elaine Niemann

Absent

Joseph Zgurzynski
Richard Abbott

Also present was a resident of Kingwood Township Jerry Fields, who is interested in becoming a member of the Environmental Commission.

Approval of the June 22, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Motion and Adoption of June 22, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to approve and adopt the minutes of the June 22, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission.

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

2.

Approval of the August 24, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Motion and Adoption of August 24, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to approve and adopt the minutes of the August 24, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission.

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

Correspondence

N/A

Reports

**Notice from Cramer Ecological Services, LLC re: Statewide General Permit No. 6
Application re: Anthony and DePasque & Josef Holzli Block 33, Lot 3.04**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that this property is located on Barcroft Road. She explained that all the lots are subdivided. The Commission had a brief discussion on the property.

**Notice from the D.E.P. re: Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification
NJDEP Case#10-09-02-1241-13 – 263 Kingwood Station-Barbertown Road**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that this was regarding an underground storage tank.

**Copy of Application Submitted by Garden Solar, LLC to Engineering and Land Planning
Assoc. - Re: Block 15, Lot 4.03 873 State Rt. 12**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer stated that this is a general permit and that the property is located on Slacktown Road, and State Hwy. Route 12. She suggested that this may be worth looking into further. A Board of Adjustment hearing will be coming up for them soon. D. Kratzer suggested that a subcommittee be formed to discuss this application. D. Kratzer, E. Niemann, L. Voronin, and D. Posey all volunteered to be a subcommittee to review this application on Friday October 1st, at 6:30PM.

3.

Homeowner Well Sampling Results for June thru August 2010 from MEL Chemical

The Commission members reviewed the results for June thru August. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer stated that she will reach out to Manager Basil Homa from MEL regarding the results. The Commission members all agreed that it would be a good idea for Debbie Kratzer to request from Mr. Homa to e-mail the past several months reports so that the Environmental Commission may compare them.

Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District

N/A

Recycling Update/Coordinator Cynthia Niciecki

Cynthia Niciecki Recycling Report for August and September 2010

Cynthia Niciecki read aloud the following report:

August and September Recycling Coordinator's Report 2010

Thanks go out to Gail and Sandy for their help on Recycling Day for August and September.

I toured the Raritan Valley Recycling Facility with members of the SWAC committee. I learned about what happens to our recyclables after they are picked up. The cardboard and paper each get baled up separately and the commingled gets loaded in trailerloads and taken to a facility where it is sorted and recycled. It was very interesting to see the place and what happens to our stuff.

A Letter was sent to the residents informing them about our new Recycling Ordinance and the opportunities to recycle in Kingwood.

I had a booth at Community Day with a Recycling Exhibit. I made a display about Recycling in Kingwood and what items we accept. Also there were 14 Recycling Event Receptacles placed around the park for people to use and they worked out well.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Niciecki

The Commission members all thanked Cynthia Niciecki for all her hard work at Community Day. They stated that it was a great display and also commented on the new recycling containers all around the park. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that there is a place on the Kingwood Township web site to take refrigerators and freezers to dispose for recycling.

4.

Volunteer for October 9, 2010

David Posey volunteered to help for the recycling on October 9th.

Old Business

Copy of a Letter from the N.J.E.P. to Mr. Paul Ripley re: Remedial Action Report for 118 Byram Kingwood Road, Kingwood Twp. Block 37, Lot 16 and: Copy of Notice of Intent to Terminate for : re 118 Byram Kingwood Rd. Block 37, Lot 16

David Posey explained that this was due to a leaky tank. He explained that they are not in compliance. He stated that they will need the proper consultant to help them through the steps to cleaning it up. He explained that the D.E.P. keeps things up to date, and that there are no regulations for homeowners that have tanks unless something leaks out. Mr. Posey explained that business must comply with the regulations by being certified. He noted that there is a hotline for residents to call, and also explained how the D.E.P. gets involved. The Commission members all thanked D. Posey for the useful information.

Open Space & Recreation Plan

Elaine Niemann explained that a hearing will be carried forward to the next Planning Board Meeting with the suggested amendments.

Sustainable Jersey Program – Update

Elaine Niemann stated that the Green Team has not met recently. She did explain that the Township is eligible for a grant up to \$50,000 to upgrade the facilities and buildings in the Township. This program is funded through the State of New Jersey. She is meeting with an auditor to go over all the facilities to see what can be replaced with the grant funds. She noted that the Township will be applying for the grant as soon as possible. She stated that this grant will be going towards replacing the furnaces and lighting in the buildings.

Deer Overpopulation – Update

Cynthia Niciecki noted that bow hunting season has started. She stated that no one has contacted her husband Jack, regarding hunting on properties in the Township.

Maintenance of trail on Township property between school and park (Form Subcommittee)

5.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that she has not had a chance to work on this project. Elaine Nieman suggested a subcommittee from the Environmental Commission should form and get together with Public Works Forman Mark Petro and Supervisor Jack, Search to discuss how it will be maintained.

Draft Solar Ordinance – Update

The Commission member asked Secretary Keller to send them a copy of the most recent updated ordinance to review.

New Business

The River Bank at Byram

http://lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org/RiverBank/Album_RiverBank.htm

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed and explained the situation. The Commission members feel that the area should be picked up and taken care of. They would like to have sand bags on the sides of the river to protect the banks. David Posey volunteered to contact the Superintendent of the D&R Canal at the D.E.P, as a member of the Environmental Commission to find out more about the problem and what can be done.

Stormwater – Local Public Education Approved Activities and Points

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed a list that municipalities could obtain points annually for educational activities. She reviewed each activity with an assigned point value. Some of the activities included school presentations, website projects, stormwater displays, giveaways, citizen stormwater advisory committee be established, poster contests, stormwater training for municipal officials, a mural, mailings, and educational activities. The Commission discussed all the activities that the Township has already completed so far. The Commission members have all agreed that they have reached over ten points for the projects that they have already completed. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted the website is one point, recycling is five points, stormwater display at Community Day was two points, and a partnership agreement for work regarding stormwater to be completed at the Kingwood Park to be two to three points. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer offered to fill out the report and send a draft to the Township's Engineer.

Action Items:

Environmental Commission Site Plan Reviews

6.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that there are no site plans to review this month.

Community Day (September 18, 2010) Review – Update on Septic and Well Discount Program

The Commission members thanked Lois Voronin, and Cynthia Niciecki for all their hard work for Community Day and also everyone that volunteered their time on Community Day at the tables for Environmental. Lois Voronin reviewed the numbers for the septic cleanings and well testing through the discount program. She stated that it was a great turnout. Everyone thanked Cynthia Niciecki for her great display on recycling.

Wastewater Management Plan

Elaine Niemann briefly discussed how the Township will be working on a septic maintenance ordinance to be updated. The Environmental Commission members expressed that they would like to be involved in the septic maintenance ordinance review.

MEL – Updates

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that there are no updates this month.

Central Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer stated that she has not had a chance to review this information on Invasive Species Strike Team.

Open Space

Open Space Chairwoman Sandra McNicol Reviews Open Space/Ag Advisory Committee Meeting of September 9, 2010

Sandra McNicol noted that there will be a fall hike on Saturday, October 16th from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. They are not sure yet where the hike will take place. She explained that it will either be at the Felix Preserved Farm, or the Augustine Preserved Farm. She stated that she will have flyers made up and will let all the members know where it will be held. She explained that there is not a lot going on right now regarding open space.

Elaine Niemann who is a member of the Agriculture Advisory Committee, stated that there are a good number of small farms that have expressed their desire to preserve their properties. She explained that at the last Ag meeting the members got together and ranked the farms.

7.

The Township's Farmland Preservation Coordinator Liz Schmid, contacted the families and has been working with them to apply for preservation. Elaine Niemann noted that the Township is not certain regarding the funding for the farms at this time.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reminded everyone about the drought and to be aware of the amount of water we all are using. She also announced how she worked on a project at the endanger species committee through the N.J.D.E.P., on how the Environmental Commission uses the landscape project. She expressed that this was very interesting.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer also explained how she went out with the students in the sixth grade for stream monitoring. She stated that it is run by a naturalist for the D & R Canal and that the stream they monitored is very close to the Kingwood School.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer also announced an ANJEC conference which is coming up if anyone is interested. It is scheduled to be on October 15th, with a \$55.00 registration fee.

Gail Ashley announced that there is a national volunteer program for collecting rain data, which involves all volunteers that have their own rain gage. She explained that she is part of the program, and she also has been collecting data for approximately five months everyday the same time. She mentioned that there is another data collection center, which is at the police barracks in Kingwood Township right outside their building. She stated that it will be very interesting to compare the two sites, since they are about five miles apart.

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

No public comments.

Adjournment

It was moved by Gail Ashley, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:55PM. **All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Cynthia L. Keller,
Secretary**