

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
November 16, 2010
7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:38 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, Chairwoman
Lois Voronin, Vice Chairwoman
Elaine Niemann
Gail Ashley
Sandra McNicol
David Posey
Jerry Fields
Richard Abbott

Absent

Cynthia Niciecki
Joseph Zgurzynski

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer welcomed the new member to the Environmental Commission, Jerry Fields.

Approval of the October 26, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion and Adoption of October 26, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission

It was moved by Sandy McNicol, seconded by David Posey and carried to adopt the meeting minutes of October 26, 2010 Environmental Commission.

Corrections: Page #4 Under Application by Garden Solar L.L.C. It was suggested to separate the topic of "The River Bank at Byram". and it's website, which was attached to the subject of the Application for Garden Solar L.L.C., which do not belong together, they are two different subjects.

Page#5 Add Block 12, Lot 16 and Lot 16.01 to the Environmental Commission Site Plan Reviews to be reviewed.

2.

Page#5 Omit the names, Sandra McNicol and Elaine Niemann as part of the Subcommittee in the paragraph under Environmental Commission Site Plan Reviews.

Page#6 Under the second paragraph, second line, omit ANJEC and replace it with EENJ.

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

Correspondence

Memo - "A Reverence for Water," Environmental Art Exhibition and Auction presented by ANJEC & The Printmaking Center of NJ

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer announced that if anyone is interested they should try to go to this presentation.

Memo from the Hunterdon County Planning Board re: Hunterdon County Planning Board Breakfast Talk on Solar Farms – December 2, 2010

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that it is free if anyone is able to attend. Elaine Niemann stated that Kingwood Township was invited to be a part of the presentation.

Letter from Chairperson Richard Dodds of the Kingwood Township Planning Board
Re: Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer read aloud the letter from the Chairman of the Kingwood Township Planning Board, Richard Dodds. She explained that the Planning Board is asking that the Environmental Commission review the sample ordinance, and submit their comments to the Planning Board Secretary Diane Laudenbach, by November 30th, 2010. Debbie Kratzer asked the Environmental Commission members if they would be available to meet to discuss the ordinance sometime this week. Debbie Kratzer offered to compile everyone's comments and e-mail them to the Township's Planning Board by November 30th.

Sandy McNicol stated that since she and Elaine Niemann were members of the Planning Board, they should exclude themselves. They explained a bit of what they know about the ordinance, and the frame work. Debbie Kratzer would like everyone's comments by the 28th of November. Sandy McNicol suggested that the Environmental Commission obtain information from the Township's ERI. Elaine Niemann suggested getting ideas from other municipalities. Sandra McNicol offered to look on the ANJEC website. It was suggested to also look at other townships ordinances.

Reports

3.

Letter to the Environmental Commission from ACT Engineering Inc. re: TWA Application for Allen Blumberg 994 County Road 519, Frenchtown NJ Block 19, Lot 3.03

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that this is for the Environmental Commissions information. She explained that this is a different kind of Septic system. Commission members directed Secretary, Keller find out and make sure that the Township's Board of Health has received this information. The Commission members discussed the details of the plan.

Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District

N/A

Recycling Update/Coordinator Cynthia Niciecki

Cynthia Niciecki Recycling Report for November 2010

November 16, 2010
Kingwood Municipal Recycling Coordinator's Report

First I want to thank Jerry Fields for helping me on Recycling Day this month. A letter was sent out to the businesses requesting their recycling tonnage information for 2010 and also informing them about our new Municipal Recycling Ordinance requirements. Ten 5-gallon buckets of household batteries were taken to the County Hazardous Waste Day. A pile of PC monitors were dropped off at our depot and will be taken to Alexandria Twp. Several unacceptable items are still being dropped off when no one is watching.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cynthia Niciecki

Cynthia Niciecki was not present at tonight's meeting. Deb Kratzer read aloud the report to all the members.

Cynthia to Review Tonnage Report) (Copy of Letter to the Kingwood Twp. Business Owners

Debbie Kratzer reviewed the tonnage grant report. She stated that this is a significant increase since Cynthia Niciecki took over as Recycling Coordinator in 2007. Debbie Kratzer reviewed the letter sent out to all the business owners in the Township from Cynthia Niciecki, requesting their yearly tonnage report.

Volunteer for December 11, 2010

Gail Ashley volunteered to help at the December 11, 2010 the Townships Recycling on Saturday.

Sandra McNicol reported that at the recycling center there have been several items that do not belong in the containers, which are not recyclable. Elaine Niemann reported she spent a lot of time pulling out items that do not belong.

4.

Jerry Fields suggested that it may be a good idea to put up signs for the different items that are accepted, and not accepted.

Old Business

Open Space & Recreation Plan

Sandra McNicol noted that this has been adopted by the Township's Planning Board, and now they are just waiting for the revisions from the Township's Planner. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer stated that there should be an update of the revisions within a day or so from David Banisch. She reviewed the changes that she made in the Plan.

Sustainable Jersey Program – Update

Elaine Niemann reported that there is nothing new to report at this time.

Deer Overpopulation – Update

Sandra McNicol shared her experience hitting a deer on Route 12 recently.

Maintenance of Trail on Township Property Between School and Park – Update from Sub-Committee

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that she and Sandra McNicol met and walked along the trail. She stated that she is working on writing up a report of what they reviewed and would like to see be done to maintain the trail. David Posey noted that he had gone to a Township Committee meeting a few months ago with a suggestion on how to prevent anyone from dumping trash along the trail. The Committee members discussed speaking to the Public Works Department regarding a solution David Posey suggested to stop the trash dumping, but nothing has been done at this time. Debbie summarized the report that she is working on, and is not sure what the D.E.P. will allow and how close to the stream they would be able to do anything. Sandra McNicol stated that they are hopeful that the farmer will give up a small spot of the farming area on the property along the trail, so they can plant native plants, or let it go natural. One of the members suggested that it might be a good idea to put up conservation easements as a marking. They decided that it would be best to advise the Public Works Department to not mow more than 5 feet from either side of the path. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer stated that she will talk to the Public Works Department about the mowing and their plans for the trail.

Solar Ordinance – Update

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained every one received a copy of the updated version of the solar ordinance. Elaine Niemann stated that the Planning Board has recommended the ordinance be introduced by the Township Committee, it can then be adopted after a public hearing, which will be at the December 7, 2010 Township Committee meeting.

5.

Stormwater – Local Public Education Approved Activities and Points - Update from Debbie Kratzer

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that she has sent the information to the Township’s Engineer Tom Decker.

New Business

Memo and 2011 Budget Request from the Clerk’s Office

The Commission members reviewed their budget, and made a motion to request the same amount as they requested last year.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to approve the amount of \$1,750.00 to be considered for the 2011 Budget for the Environmental Commission.

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

Action Items:

Environmental Commission Site Plan Reviews

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

Wastewater Management Plan

Elaine Niemann stated that there is nothing to report this month.

MEL – Updates

Elaine Niemann stated that she and Gail Ashley will meet next month to review several files.

Central Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team

Elaine Niemann stated that she would like everyone to think about organizing some idea that the Open Space/Ag Committees can work on in 2011. It was suggested that possibly the County Corrections Department could help out with some of the projects.

Open Space

6.

Open Space Chairwoman Sandra McNicol Reviews Open Space/Ag Advisory Committee Meeting of November 4, 2010

Sandy McNicol stated that they had a guest speaker at the Open Space and Ag meeting, Kate Buttolph from the Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance. She explained that Ms. Buttolph reviewed several properties they hope preserve in Kingwood. She talked about the Trstensky property, which is located on Kingwood Locktown Road, in Kingwood Township. She explained that it runs up against the Lockatong Creek, and that the Township cannot act on this until the Hunterdon Land Trust hears about the grant funds. The members discussed the property with Ms. Buttolph and she stated that the land does have the potential to be combined with another piece that has been preserved. Ms. Buttolph reviewed that Memorandum of Agreement between the State of New Jersey D.E.P., the Hunterdon Land Trust, and the Township of Kingwood for the Kugler woods. She explained that the Land Trust is working with the State on all the details. Sandra McNicol stated that the Open Space and the Agriculture Committees hiked that piece of land last year. She noted that there are many nice plants on the properties. She explained that the fall hike was at the Augustine farm in October, and that it was a beautiful piece of property to hike. Sandra McNicol also noted that Kingwood has the highest rate of farms that have applied to be preserved in the County. Lois Voronin would like to have a copy of the total number of acres preserved in the Township. Sandy McNicol stated that she will work on getting the details for the next meeting. Elaine Niemann explained that the Gergar farm will be going up for auction in December. She explained that Helen Gergar left the farm to the Township and that the piece to be preserved will always be preserved, and that the Township is responsible to keep it up and to be a landlord. She explained that the Township Committee felt it was best to sell the property around the house, so that the Township will be relieved of all the obligations once that part of the property is sold at the auction. She feels that the Township will receive a good bid for the property. Elaine Niemann also explained that there was a request from Helen Gergar to have a sign put up on the property to say "Gergar Family Farm Preserved". She explained that the Leon's have the right to farm the preserved farmland for life. She explained that proceeds of the sale can be put towards the open space trust fund. Elaine noted that the house and property being sold is approximately 5 acres. The Commission members noted that the soils are very good in that area.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that next year the Commission should start thinking about having some presentations during the meetings, and she discussed several topics that could be of interest to the public. She noted that she would be happy to do a presentation of mapping on line, from the NJDEP at a presentation. Mrs. Kratzer also suggested to have someone from the D.E.P. speak about a program to education about underground storage tanks. David Posey, a member of the Commission and who also works for the D.E.P. offered to do that presentation. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that it would be a good idea to schedule the topics for each month at the December or January meeting.

E. Niemann stated that she had received an e-mail to go to a Round Table at Echo Hill Environmental Station for Thursday, November 18th. She stated that she will drop everyone an e-mail to let them know the topic that will be discussed at that meeting.

Sandra McNicol announced that a resident of the Township named, Lee Frank will be having guests at his property to observe turtles. There was a brief discussion on the different species of turtles seen in the Township.

7.

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

N/A

Adjournment

It was moved by Gail Ashley, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:47P.M. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

**Cynthia L. Keller,
Secretary**