

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 31, 2011
7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:08P.M. Secretary Cynthia Keller 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 by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Hunterdon Democrat, Courier News, Star Ledger, and the Express Times on January 26, 2011. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building and Post Office on January 26, 2011.

In order to ensure full public participation in this meeting, all members of this Commission, 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
Elaine Niemann
Cynthia Niciecki
Sandra McNicol
David Posey

Absent

Gail Ashley
Joseph Zgurzynski
Jerry Fields
Richard Abbott

Nomination for Chairperson for 2011

It was moved by Lois Voronin, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to nominate Debbie Kratzer, Chairwoman of the Environmental Commission for the year 2011.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nomination for Vice Chairperson

It was moved by Cynthia Niciecki, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to nominate Lois Voronin, Vice Chairwoman of the Environmental Commission for the year 2011.

2.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Decision of Annual Meeting Dates and Times for 2011 for the Environmental Commission

The Commission members discussed several dates that would work for everyone to attend meetings this year for the Environmental Commission. The members all agreed that the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30PM would still work for everyone. It was discussed to change the dates for November and December due to the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas, which have been changed to the third Tuesday in November, and the second Tuesday in December.

Motion and approval of local newspapers (Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News) for Advertisements

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by David Posey and carried to approve the local newspapers the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News for advertisements for the year 2011.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Approval of the November 16, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Motion and Adoption of November 16, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by David Posey and carried to approve the meeting minutes of the November 16, 2010 Regular meeting for the Environmental Commission.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye	-	D. Kratzer, L. Voronin S. McNicol, D. Posey
Nay	-	None
Abstain-		Cynthia Niciecki
Absent -		J. Fields, G. Ashley

3.

The December 16, 2010 Environmental Commission Meeting was canceled

Correspondence

Secretary - Ask Environmental Commission as a Request from a Resident, Denise Kramer of Route 12 – Future Arsenic Testing through the Kingwood School or the Township in the Near Future

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. The Commission members discussed that it may be best to do the arsenic testing just once a year during the month of September at the time of Community Day. Elaine Niemann suggested that we put this information in the spring newsletter as a reminder to the residents. She also suggested to anyone that would like to have input to the newsletter regarding environmental information, to please let her know as soon as possible. Lois Voronin asked if the web page is referenced in the newsletter, because she feels that the newsletter gives out a lot of information.

Invitation to the Environmental Commission re: The Hunterdon County Parks and Recreation Eleventh Annual Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 16, 2011

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Copy of Letter Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer - Send to Mr. Paul Ripley re: Information on Underground Storage Tanks

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

The Hunterdon County Planning Board Will Host a “Coffee With the County” Talk on Wednesday, February 25, 2011 from 7:30AM to 9:00AM. “TIME OF APPLICATION” MUNICIPAL LAND USE LAW RULE CHANGE

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. Elaine Niemann explained the process of an application that is submitted to the Planning Board, and how it works with the Township’s ordinances. She noted that these were some of the topics that have been discussed at the County meetings. She explained that the main issue for the talk is for municipalities to decide what to do for the future.

Reports

Update from Last Month - TWA Application for Allen Blumberg 994 County Road 519, Frenchtown NJ Block 19, Lot 3.03 (Special Septic System) - Township’s Board of Health has reviewed and approved

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Freshwater Wetlands Application Checklist – Dated 11/18/2010 - John Heid, Barbertown Point Breeze Road – Block 19, Lot 19 Letter of Interpretation

4.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Notice from the D.E.P. re: Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification
NJDEP Case Number: 10-11-24-1026-03 (Oil Heating#2) – 365 Oak Grove Road

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Quarterly Homeowner Well Sampling Results for September thru November 2010
from MEL Chemicals Inc.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Notice from the D.E.P. re: Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification
NJDEP Case Number 10-12-08-0931-14 – 185 Spring Hill Road (MacConnell)

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Fourth Quarter 2010 Kingwood Township Notices of Completion Septic Records
(October 2010)

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. Sandra McNicol not too much is going on in the Township at this time.

Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District

N/A

Recycling Update/Coordinator Cynthia Niciecki

Cynthia Niciecki Recycling Report for December 2010 and January 2011

Cynthia Niciecki was present and reviewed the following reports:

December 2010 Kingwood Recycling Coordinator's Report

Thank you to Gail for helping me on Recycling Day in December. She helped me clean up all the stuff that blew out of the dumpsters. She hung up a sign saying "No Electronics Collection at this Time."

Ten monitors were taken to Alexandria's Depot.

I am receiving reports from the businesses in Kingwood with their recycling tonnage information in response to the letter that I sent out in November.

5.

January 2011 Kingwood Recycling Coordinator's Report

January's Recycling Day went well. My husband Jack helped me that day and it snowed the whole morning. Our newly appointed Mayor Phil Lubitz came to oversee the operation. I submitted the quarterly Municipal Recycling Coordinator's Report to the County. It included recycling totals collected from our Depot, a copy of the letter that I sent to the businesses in Kingwood, information about the Recycling Display I made, a print-out of our updated recycling page from the Township's Official Web Site, and information about our Municipal Program Funding.

Cynthia Niciecki thanked Debbie Kratzer for the great job she did on the write up on the web site regarding Kingwoods recycling. She noted that she sent a copy of Debbie Kratzer's write up to the County. Sandra McNicol asked about the tonnage reports. Cynthia Niciecki responded by telling everyone all the businesses that have responded already.

Volunteer for February 12, 2011

Sandra McNicol volunteered to work on Saturday, February 12, 2011

2011 Instructions Update

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer asked if there were any changes to the flyer for 2011. Cynthia Niciecki responded that she will look it over and let her know if there are any changes.

"Electronic Waste Management Act" – New Law in Effect January 1, 2011

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer asked if there is anything that the Commission can do to help the public with this collection. Cynthia Niciecki stated that she will look into the cost to have a collection bin for electronics at our facility. Sandra McNicol suggested that we contact the County to see if they would be able to increase the amount of days to collect electronics during the year. Elaine Niemann noted that she didn't think people would mind to pay a small fee to drop them off. Elaine Niemann noted that Franklin and Holland Township's have goodwill trailers at their recycling depot. Cynthia Niciecki explained how it works at the other municipalities. Cynthia Niciecki noted that the problem with having it in Kingwood is that we do not have enough help to be there enough of the time. The Commission discussed the idea and feel that the Township should not take on any more projects that would cost the Township money. Cynthia Niciecki explained that the tonnage grant helps, but it is not enough to cover extra items to be recycled. Everyone thanked Cynthia for the great job she has done over the years.

Is Monofilament Fishing Line a Problem?

http://www.nj.gov/dep/njcleanmarina/fishing_line_recycling.html

6.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the information she found on the internet regarding recycling fishing line and explained it to everyone. Sandra McNicol stated that this would be a good project for the scouts to work on.

Old Business

2009 ANJEC Smart Growth Planning Grant – Open Space & Recreation Plan – Update

Sandra McNicol noted that she met with Richard Dodds and explained that they reviewed the GIS maps block by block for the Open Space & Recreation Plan. She explained that they found all the errors that were not in the report and clarified several things on the maps. They found the correct names for all the areas. She stated that she and Richard are working on certain areas of the maps. They are going to simplify the maps and then send it to the Township's Planner, and then they will be reviewed by the Planning Board to be approved. Sandra explained that there is a new Planner who is working for Banisch Associates, her name is Joanna Slagle who will be working on the project. The members thanked Sandra McNicol for the hard work she and Richard Dodds have spent so much time on working on the Open Space & Recreation Plan.

Arsenic

Stuart Braman of Columbia University – Doing Research on Arsenic

Mention arsenic problem in March Mailing/Newsletter

Should We Do Arsenic Sampling Through School or Only Community Day?

Chairwoman Debbie Kratze, and Lois Voronin reviewed the meeting they had with Stuart Braman and the several ideas he shared with them. He explained how the Environmental Commission can educate the public on what to do if they have arsenic in their water. The Commission would like information regarding arsenic to go out in the spring newsletter.

Sustainable Jersey Program – Update

Elaine Niemann explained that the Township has been inactive the past year and that the program needs to be worked on. Diana Haywood offered to take the lead and work on the projects. Elaine Niemann noted that the sustainable green team receives credit points for the Clean Energy Grant that the Township will receive to replace lights and furnaces for several buildings in the Township. There was a discussion on the solar panels and how effective they are at the Township Garage. Elaine Niemann explained that the Township is receiving extra funds from the State for the use of the solar panels.

MEL – Update

Debbie reviewed the e-mail information from Gail Ashley. She read aloud the following:

7.

I talked with Andrew Dillman at NJDEP (Bureau of Industrial Site Remediation) regarding the status of MEL clean-up. There are two ongoing issues:

- (1) Salt plume affecting domestic water supplies
- (2) Radiogenic nuclides in sediments in ditch leading to Wickechoeke Creek

Both issues seem to be in a "holding pattern"

Re: Salt plume

MEL requested an extension for submitting a plan to DEP to fix the groundwater pollution problem. I believe they have been given a few months.

Re: Radioactive Materials

The levels are higher than is considered acceptable by the DEP.

MEL is trying to get the materials reclassified using different inputs into a model or a different model that calculates the negative impact on the environment. The calculations would be specific to MEL property (case specific). They seem to be avoiding simply removing the material (the costs must be very high). They are exploring the possibility of a "Deed Notice", which is that the deed to the MEL property would have a notice attached (filed with the County) so that any future buyer would be aware of the issue.

But, they can not do that until the levels are lower or calculated to be lower. The Commission members will discuss this more next meeting with Gail Ashley.

Deer Overpopulation – Update

Cynthia Niciecki stated that she had obtained a copy of 2010 Fish and Wildlife publication that includes all the rules and regulations to get an idea of how the State handles the overpopulation of deer. Cynthia Niciecki noted that she spoke to the Assistant Director of the New Jersey Fish and Wildlife, Mr. Larry Herrighty who happens to be a resident of Kingwood Township. She explained that he would be very happy to come speak to the Environmental Commission about the deer overpopulation and also give the Township ideas to solve the problem. The Commission suggested having a presentation and inviting the public to hear Larry Herrighty speak. Sandra McNicol noted that it has been reported that there were 750 deer killed in Hunterdon County by auto mobiles in New Jersey last year in 2010. Cynthia Niciecki offered to contact Mr. Larry Herrighty to set up a date for a presentation.

Wastewater Management Plan - Update

Elaine Niemann reviewed an update.

8.

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

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that she has not had time to look into this in the past month, and would like to discuss this next meeting.

Solar Ordinance – Update: Adopted

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that on December 7, 2010, the Township Committee had a final adoption of the Solar Ordinance.

Board Breakfast Talk on Solar Farms – December 2, 2010 Update, Who Went? Also - Press Release from Rick Steffey, Breakfast Talk Coordinator

Elaine Niemann reviewed what was discussed at the breakfast. She noted that there were many people that attended. She learned more about the fire hazards with solar panels. She stated that there are many concerns with lightning storms and if it strikes the panels and a fire starts. She reviewed all the topics, as far as, the fire department and if they are equip for how to handle fires and what they would need to use. She explained that the Kingwood Fire Department is very interested in discussing this with the Townships Planning Board. She said that the Fire Department is very interested in participating in learning more about solar panels and what issues that they need to know about, and what to do in case of a situation if the panels are on fire. Sandra McNicol stated that it was a learning experience for everyone. Elaine Niemann noted that all the municipalities are interested in working with each other.

Kingwood SEIA (Statement of Environmental Impact and Assessment) and Threatened and Endangered Ordinance Draft - Update

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that the Township is going to be considering adopting an ordinance. Sandra McNicol noted that the Planning Board just received the draft and will be reviewing it at the next meeting in February. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that Environmental Commission will discuss this at their next meeting. Sandra McNicol suggested that the Commission members should send their comments for the draft ordinance to the Planning Board for consideration.

2010 Hunterdon County Planning Awards – Nomination of Solar Project on Kingwood Garage

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. Everyone thanked Debbie Kratzer for her hard work on this application, and for doing such a professional job. They all agreed she did a great job.

New Business

ANJEC Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions – 2011 Membership Dues

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by David Posey and carried to renew the ANJEC Association 2011 Membership for the Environmental Commission members.

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

2011 ANJEC Smart Growth Planning Grants Announcement

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. There was a discussion whether the Commission should work on a project or take year off and apply next year. Elaine Niemann explained to the Commission how the grant process works and what the Township is able to afford this year. The Commission members all agreed to pass on this until next year, due to the tight budget this year.

Wind Energy Ordinance Draft 1-12-2011

David Posey noted that he read more about the subject and explained to everyone what he learned. The Commission members discussed several parts of the draft. Sandra McNicol explained that this will be discussed at the next months Planning Board meeting. Debbie Kratzer stated that the Commission members are more than welcome to submit any comments to the Planning Board.

Eagle Scout Project Planned at Kingwood Park – Native Rain Garden, Path, Kiosks & Bulb Plantings

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that Boy Scout Keith Augustine will be working on an Eagle project at the park. She described the native gardens that he has planned. She noted that Keith has already discussed his plans with Jim Burke, our former Mayor. He went before the Park and Recreation Committee for approval. The Environmental Commission is willing to help out with his project and give him some good ideas. Debbie Kratzer will be meeting with him and the Park Director in the spring to discuss his project.

10.

Plan Special Presentations for 2011 – Possibilities:

- Hunterdon Master Gardeners – Available Presentation “Coping with Deer” by Beth Nardone on Wednesday, 3/23 at 7:00PM. They do not charge, but they ask for an honorarium of \$50
- NJ Geo Web (online mapping) (Debbie Kratzer)
- Underground Storage Tanks (UST) (David Posey)
- Native Gardening/Rain Gardening
- Lockatong/Wickecheoke Project (Todd Kratzer)
- Presentation from N.J. Fish & Wild Life Assistant Director, Larry Herrightly a Kingwood Township resident

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed all the possible presentations the Environmental Commission could have for 2011. There was a very long discussion on a presentation joint with the Parks and Recreation Committee regarding the park and the Lockatong /Wickecheoke Project with Todd Kratzer. Elaine Niemann gave a brief explanation of what Todd Kratzer is doing with the testing to correct the stormwater management at the Kingwood Park. Another suggestion was to have a meeting with Kingwood Township’s Environmental Commission and Milford Boro’s Environmental Commission to meet with David Posey to discuss D.E.P. issues. Cindy Niciecki offered to contact Assistant Director to the N.J. Fish and Wildlife, Larry Herrightly to come do a presentation during an Environmental Commission meeting and to be scheduled possibly in the month of April. David Posey has volunteered to give a presentation in March regarding underground storage tanks. There was a discussion on where these presentations would be advertised and how the Commission can spread the word.

Idling

David Posey discussed ideas of how to educate the public about the dangers of idling. He has recommended to his daughter who is currently involved with the Environmental Commission Club, to do a project about idling and to possibly send a petition around about the dangers. There was a discussion on how it would be a good idea to recommend to Environmental Clubs in the area to contact bus companies and to put notices out encouraging them to save money by not idling. Everyone thanked David for keeping up on this project.

Driveway Issue – Procedures to Make Sure Driveways Don’t Go Right into Wetlands

The Commission members discussed a neighbor in Kingwood Township who shared that they noticed an apron for a driveway being constructed in a wetlands area. Elaine Niemann did contact the County regarding municipalities and procedures they follow, as far as, installation of driveways. She explained that she has a list of approximately 15 municipalities responses that were forwarded to the County Planning Board on how they handle driveway constructions and wetlands. Elaine Niemann noted that most municipalities have a procedure in place before the driveway is constructed.

11.

She explained that it is reviewed by an engineer, zoning officer, or construction official first before they are issued a driveway permit. The Commission members feel that the Township needs to have someone to get involved in the inspections before a driveway is constructed in the Township. Elaine Niemann stated that she will bring the information she obtained from the County to the next meeting in February of what other municipalities procedures are for driveway construction, and to get an idea of what Kingwood Township could also be doing.

Trash Handling on Open Space Properties – Specially New Trails

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. There were several ideas discussed. There was a discussion on possibly putting some type of bags on the properties so that people can then pick up their garbage.

Imminent Destruction of Old Growth Trees?

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that she received an e-mail regarding trees being cut down on private property. She stated that she looked into this and there is nothing the Township can do about this at this time. It was noted that the Township currently does not have a tree ordinance, which may be a consideration at some point.

NJ Invasive Species Strike Team (formerly Central Jersey)

<http://www.njisst.org/Index.asp>

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer asked if anyone was interested in doing some type of a project this year. Sandra McNicol suggested that the Commission have someone from the Strike Team come speak to the Township's Environmental Commission. Another idea discussed was to send someone from the Township to attend a lecture to learn more about the subject of invasive species and how to handle the plants. Cynthia Niciecki suggested having someone come out to the open space properties and look them over and educate the Committees and Commissions. Sandra McNicol will look into getting an intern to come out and take a walk with the members of the Commission on some of the properties in Kingwood Township.

2009 EC Annual Report

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the 2009 EC Annual Report that she prepared. There were several suggestions from the Commission members of items to add to the report. (A copy of the report will be attached to the back of these minutes.)

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to adopt the Kingwood Township Environmental Commission 2009 EC Annual Report with the added additions and corrections.

12.

Roll Call Vote:

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

2010 EC Annual Report

The Commission members reviewed the 2010 EC Annual Report. There was a suggestion to put more recycling receptacles out at the park. (A copy of the report will be attached to the back of these minutes.)

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to adopt the Kingwood Township Environmental Commission 2010 EC Annual Report with the additions and corrections.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Objectives for 2011

The Commission discussed several new ideas for 2011. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer thanked everyone for their help and time in working on projects for the Commission and the Township. She stated that everyone helps out and works real well together. (A copy of the 2011 Objectives will be attached to these minutes).

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to approve and accept the Objectives for 2011.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Action Items

Environmental Commission Site Plan Reviews

(Site Plan New Application Block 21, Lot 1 Leonard Keller - Project Point Breeze Solar Farm) (Plans Available at Meeting to Review)

13.

Sandra McNicol noted that she believes that this application will be going to the Board of Adjustment for variances. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer suggested that several members get together to review the application. Elaine Niemann made a suggestion to call the Board of Adjustment Secretary to find out more information on this application.

Open Space

Open Space Chairwoman Sandra McNicol Reviews Open Space/Ag Advisory Committee Meetings of December 2, 2010 and January 4, 2011

Sandra McNicol reported on the December 2nd and January 4th meetings. She stated that the signs for the preserved farms are here and will be put up when the snow is gone. She noted that the drawing and design for the Melnyk farm sign will be discussed at the next Open Space and Ag Meeting. She discussed the farms that were submitted for preservation by Liz Schmid. She explained that there were 6 farms submitted and that 5 were chosen and accepted for review. Sandra explained that Richard Dodds has been working on a trails grant for the Kugler Woods together with the Hunterdon County Land Trust. She stated that the Township is waiting to hear from the State as to how much money will be available before obtaining more open space property.

Elaine Niemann announced that the property buyer for the Gergar Farm had died recently. She will be in touch with Earl Steves from Max Spann regarding the result of the sale and what the Township should do next. This will be discussed at the next Township Committee meeting.

Sandra McNicol stated that the Cornell Lab of Ornithology has a backyard bird count every year. She stated that this year it will be from, February 18 to February 21st, 2011 and you can go to www.birdsource.org/gbbc each one of those days you look out your window and enter the information on the net.

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

No public comments.

Adjournment

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:20PM. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller,
Secretary