

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
February 22, 2011
7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7: 40 P.M. Vice - Chairwoman Lois Voronin 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 3, 2011, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Star Ledger, and the Express Times on February 1, 2011. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building and Post Office on February 1, 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

Deborah Kratzer (arrived at 7:41)
Lois Voronin
Elaine Niemann
Gail Ashley
Sandra McNicol
David Posey
Jerry Fields
Cynthia Niciecki
Richard Abbott

Absent

Joseph Zgurzynski

Also Mayor Phil Lubitz was present at the meeting.

Approval of the January 31, 2011 Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion and Adoption of January 31, 2011 Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to adopt the January 31, 2011 Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes for the Environmental Commission.

2.

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

Correspondence

N/A

Reports

Letter of Interpretation re: Tumble Partnership L.L.P. Property located on Tumble-Idell Rd. Block 32, Lot 10

Debbie reviewed.

Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District

N/A

Recycling Update/Coordinator Cynthia Niciecki

Cynthia Niciecki Recycling Report for February 2011

Recycling Coordinator, Cynthia Niciecki read aloud the following report:

February 22, 2011 RECYCLING COORDINATORS REPORT

First I want to thank Sandy and Mike for helping me at our Recycling Day this month. Mayor Lubitz also attended.

The 2011 Recycling Bin Instruction Sheet and Calendar has been updated and is ready to be included in the next mailing. I also wrote an article about recycling for the Kingwood Chronicle.

The businesses in Kingwood are continuing to send me their recycling reports for 2010, and I will be preparing the Tonnage Report to the State which is due on April 30, 2011.

I attended the SWAC meeting last week. County Coordinator Alan Johnson, reported that next month's Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be the last time they will accept household batteries, due to a problem with a potential fire hazard while transporting them, and also economic reasons. I will keep you informed about what will happen with that, since recycling those batteries is included in our Recycling Ordinance.

3.

The next County Hazardous Waste Collection Day is March 12, 2011 from 9am to 1pm, and the next County Electronics Collection Day is March 26, 2011 from 9am to 1pm.

Everyone thanked Cynthia Niciecki for her report.

Elaine Niemann asked questions about batteries, the solution to recycling them, and the dangers of the batteries in the regular garbage. She is not sure of how the Township can transport the batteries since it is very dangerous. She noted that if the County does not feel it is safe to transport the batteries, then the Township's Public Works should not take it themselves. Cynthia Niciecki explained what she knew about the batteries. There was a discussion on how to inform the public. Cindy Niciecki offered to contact the County to find out how to tell the residents about the problem with recycling batteries, and where to take them to dispose of them. Richard Abbott commented on the association on lead and ink. Elaine Niemann asked Richard Abbott to reach out and find out what he can for the Township to do with this problem. Jerry Fields volunteered to contact a person from the Waste Management for some suggestions. He stated that he will work with C. Niciecki regarding this issue. Cindy Niciecki asked for everyone to find out what they can to find a solution.

Volunteer for March 12, 2011

David Posey volunteered to work at the Recycling Center on March 12, 2011 9:00a.m. – 1:00p.m. Jerry Fields volunteered to help on April 9, 2011.

Gail Ashley offered to update the instruction sheet for recycling, laminate it and put it up for the public.

“Electronic Waste Management Act” – New Law in Effect January 1, 2011 – Update

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Newspaper Article from Hunterdon County Democrat re: Recycling Reports

All the members of the Commission commended Cynthia Niciecki, Kingwood's Recycling Coordinator for her excellent job she has done with the Township's recycling program the past several years.

Recycling News From Our Municipal Recycling Coordinator – To be Published in the Spring - Kingwood Chronicle

Cynthia Niciecki read aloud the following news on recycling to be published in the Kingwood Chronicle that will be going out in a mailing to all residents this spring:

4.

RECYCLING NEWS FROM OUR MUNICIPAL RECYCLING COORDINATOR

Most everyone knows that we should recycle. The reasons are many...to be “green”, to lower garbage costs, because your children urge you to, and many others. For those of you that do regularly recycle, THANK YOU!

There is another reason that you must become aware of... our Municipal Recycling Ordinance requires that each resident, business, and institution recycle. While we have successfully provided a convenient recycling depot at our Public Works Garage on Union Rd., some residents still do not recycle. For those of you that are not recycling, we urge you to comply with our Municipal Recycling Ordinance and participate in our Municipal Recycling Collection Program.

Please read the enclosed 2011 Recycling Bin Instruction Sheet for complete recycling rules for our Recycling Depot. Remember to empty all bags and keep materials loose, and please do not put any non-recyclables in the commingled bin. Please do not leave any electronics or hazardous waste at our Depot. I urge you to participate in the next Hunterdon County Hazardous Waste Cleanup Day on Saturday, March 12, 2011 from 9:00a.m. – 1:00p.m., and the next Electronics Collection Day on Saturday, March 26, 2011 from 9am to 1pm., at the Rt. 12 Complex.

If you have any questions regarding our residential recycling program, please call me, Cynthia Niciecki at 908-996-4695.

Old Business

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

Sandra McNicol noted that this has been discussed at the last Planning Board meeting. She stated that all of the changes have been made. She would like to get in touch with the Township’s Planner regarding the updated maps. Mrs. McNicol stated that their will be a hearing and final adoption at the March Planning Board Meeting.

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

Sandra McNicol stated that this will be postponed until a presentation that is planned for the next meeting.

Wind Energy Ordinance Draft 1-12-2011 Update

Sandra McNicol stated that this will be discussed at the next Planning Board meeting after getting additional information from Planner, David Banisch regarding the height of the communication towers. The Planning Board is concerned about them being too high. Mayor Phil Lubitz was present, and also explained what the Planning Board had reviewed on this ordinance.

5.

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

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that Keith Augustine who is working on the project is now collecting donations for materials for the project.

Special Presentations for 2011, to be held 7:30 to approximately 8:30 pm at the beginning of the following EC meetings:

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the following presentations to be throughout the year at the Environmental Commission meetings.

March 22 - David Posey will talk about Underground Storage Tanks

April 26 - tentative - Tama Matsouka will talk about Native Plants

May 24 - Larry Herrighty of NJDEP will talk about deer and deer hunting in NJ

TBA - Zoltan Szabo will give an update about arsenic in ground water

TBA - Todd Kratzer of NJ Water Supply Authority will talk about the proposed stormwater controls at Kingwood Park - part of the Lockatong & Wickecheoke Creek Watershed Management Plan

Debbie Kratzer explained a little bit about each presentation. She noted that Todd Kratzer who is listed will be giving the same demonstration at the Township's Parks and Recreation meeting scheduled on March 2nd, at 7:00PM.

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

Elaine Niemann noted that there was a very good response from other municipalities to find out how each municipality handles issuing driveway permits. She explained what she learned about other municipalities procedures. Elaine Niemann suggested that it may be a good idea for the Environmental Commission to send a letter to the Township's Planning Board recommending that they look at the current procedure for Kingwood, and that it be addressed. She stated that it should also be written that the Township does not have a procedure for issuing driveway permits, and that there is a concern for wetland areas. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer and Elaine Niemann will be working on a letter together, and then review it with the members at next months Environmental Commission meeting before sending it to the Planning Board.

Trash Handling on Open Space Properties – Specially New Trails

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer stated that Jerry fields had brought up the subject of procedures with trash on open space properties. Jerry Fields gave some solutions on how to handle the trash situation. He stated that if you haul it in, you should haul it out and he suggested putting up signs on the properties, and also on the website.

6.

Lois Voronin suggested to put out trash bags and have the people throw their trash in the bag and take it with them. There was a discussion of how to word the signs for the trash disposal on preserved and open space properties. Sandra McNicol suggested that the school and park walkway would be a good place to start. She recommended that the Environmental Commission keep in touch with the school and let them know what the plans are for the trash control. Mayor Lubitz commented and gave his suggestions for a sign.

NJ Invasive Species Strike Team - <http://www.njisst.org/Index.asp> - Annual Strike Team Steering Committee Meeting – Friday, March 25, 2011 10:00a.m.- 12:00p.m. Echo Hill Park Main Lodge

Sandra McNicol noted that she contacted them to find out from their interns if they could maybe come to talk about properties in Kingwood Township.

New Business

Wastewater Management Plan - Press Release about a Public Hearing on the Draft Sewer Service Areas - March 9

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the press release and talked about the link and the maps regarding the draft sewer service areas. Elaine Niemann stated that the Township's Board of Health introduced a septic ordinance at their last meeting. She stated that she will e-mail it to everyone on the E. Commission to review. She explained that this is required by the County for the wastewater management plan, and to educate and put in place a requirement of maintenance of septic systems. Comments will be e-mailed by everyone on the E. Commission to Debbie Kratzer, and then to the Board of Health to review.

Sandra McNicol stated that the Planning Board also discussed the steep slope ordinance and the changes to be made for the Township to introduce. She also discussed the Riparian ordinance that the Township Committee introduced on February 3rd, and was then sent to the Planning Board to review.

Link to Wastewater Management Plan Information:

<http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/planning/WasteWaterManagementPlan.htm>

Link Directly to Kingwood SSA Map (1.6 mb):

<http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/planning/wastewater/TownshipSSAMaps/Kingwood%20Public%20Draft%20SSA.pdf>

7.

New Business Continued

Lockatong & Wickecheoke Creek Watersheds Restoration and Management Plan
View links and some conceptual designs for proposed stormwater controls for 4
municipalities as proposed in the Lockatong and Wickecheoke Creek Watershed
Management Plan. HYPERLINK

"<http://kingwoodtownship.com/environmental#LockWick>"<http://kingwoodtownship.com/environmental#LockWick>

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that there are several sites listed on the Township's website regarding the plan. She stated that students from the Delaware Valley College have been helping out and gave some suggestions and ideas.

Concerns about the Delaware River & riverbank –

- http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/local/courier_times/courier_times_news_details/article/28/2011/january/31/hot-dog-man-wants-zip-lines-jet-boats.html
- http://lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org/RiverBank/Album_RiverBank.htm

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that she wrote a letter to the NJDEP Natural and Historic Resources, regarding the concerns of the Delaware River and riverbank. There was a discussion on whether a subcommittee should be formed to complete the letter or if the Commission could give some suggestions to put into the letter. Several suggestions were made by the Commission members. They discussed the possible need for emergency vehicles and help to be available from the Township volunteer squads. There was a discussion on the trash and the boats along the river, and how it will affect the riverbanks and the environment. David Posey suggested some points to ask the N.J.D.E.P. Commissioner. Everyone gave input on several ideas of what to add to the letter. Lois Voronin suggested looking into other municipalities located along the river and find out what kind of ordinances they have set, as far as, noise. Jerry Fields stated that he has been looking into obtaining these ordinances. There was also a discussion on the rules and regulations of jet skis. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that the letter is mainly to find out the answer to their questions and concerns that the Environmental Commission may have.

Approve Letter in Concept:

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to approve a letter to be sent to the Assistant Commissioner at the NJDEP Natural & Historic Resources, a copy sent to the waterfront municipalities, the Delaware Wild and Scenic Commission, the Acting Director of Parks, and to the PA DEP regarding the Environmental Commissions Concerns.

8.

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

County Planning Board's first 2011 "Coffee with the County" event 2/23 7:30-9am on the "Time of Decision" legislation. RSVP by 2/18

Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Action Items

Environmental Commission Site Plan Reviews

The Commission discussed a project that is going on at the end of Barbertown Point Breeze and Route 12. Elaine Niemann stated that this will be discussed at the Board of Adjustment meeting on March 9th. She explained what is planned for the project. Debbie Kratzer suggested that a subcommittee get together to review these plans. The Subcommittee will be Debbie Kratzer, Sandra McNicol and Lois Voronin.

Sustainable Jersey Program – Update

Elaine Niemann stated that the grant for the equipment replacement has been approved and the Township should be getting the work done soon. She explained that there was a second phase that was offered, which would have allowed the Township to replace windows and doors, but since the Township has not had an energy audit review done we cannot apply for the grant funds. She did say that the Township has now been made aware, and that an audit will be done eventually without any expense to the Township. She explained that after an audit is completed, then they will be able to participate in the future. She explained that she has passed this offer over to the Kingwood Township School to use the grant funds.

MEL – Update

Gail Ashley explained that she spoke to someone from N.J.D.E.P. and explained that they are in a holding pattern at this time. She talked about a gully that goes to the river and that the State is working on a revised remediation plan to do some recalculations on the salt plum. She stated that MEL is coming up with a plan to get rid of the gully. Gail offered to call the N.J.D.E.P. again to find out if anything new has happened. She is concerned about the rain washing out the gully and running into streams.

9.

Deer Overpopulation – Update

Cynthia Niciecki noted that deer season is officially over. She hopes that Larry Herrighty will have something to add to the topic when he speaks in May.

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

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer will be working on this for the next meeting.

Open Space

Open Space Chairwoman Sandra McNicol – No Meeting for Open Space/Ag Committees in the month of February – due to weather conditions

Sandra McNicol stated that there was no meeting in the month of February. There will be a discussion on the naming of the Clark property at the next Open Space/Ag meeting in March. She explained that the Hunterdon County Land trust is trying to get rid of the land owner's names, and would like the open space committees to come up with another name for the preservation signs. Sandra discussed some of the trails that are being worked on and looked into working on some of the preserved properties. She also talked about the Deer Run property located on Spring Hill Road and Horseshoe bend Road. She noted that this is a 25 acre piece, which is under the management of the NJ Conservation Foundation. She explained that a parking area will be placed on the Spring Hill Road side of the property.

ESRI Renewal Maps

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that this was on the agenda for review, and that we are not going to participate and renew the maps for the Township. The Commission feels that the Township should not purchase these maps and save the money because several members of the Committees and Boards in the Township have them at home on there computer.

Elaine Niemann – Review of Important News

Elaine Niemann reviewed some important news about the Route 12 corridor. She explained that there has been a concern from the residents about Route 12 and what the Township will be doing with this in the future. She reviewed a concept that the Planning Board reviewed at their last meeting and how the Township will work on the plans for Route 12 corridor. She explained that the Township is working with a firm called Maser Consulting on an idea. Elaine reviewed a map and showed the plans for development and a new designated town center.

10.

She explained some of the plans for zoning changes, septic plans, and wastewater management. She stated that the Planning Board has many concerns of the structure of the development and how it will be kept in a country setting.

She noted that this is just a concept at this point and that the Township will be inviting the public to participate to have input on the plans before anything is done. Mayor Lubitz noted that this is a concept, which was created from the input and suggestions from the public from a survey that was sent out to all the residents of Kingwood Township. He hopes to see that there is open public input before it is actually considered. Elaine Niemann wanted to share this with the Environmental Commission and let them know what the Township is working on for the future, and to make plans for where development will be zoned to be done. The next step would be to adopt an ordinance to create the zoning change, and then to approach the N.J.D.E.P. on the concepts. There were many questions from the Commission members. She stated that this is new to the Planning Board and it will be discussed at their meeting next month in March. Elaine Niemann suggested to anyone that is interested in learning more about the plans should attend the next Planning Board meeting on March 10, 2011 at 7:30PM.

Sandra McNicol brought up a question her husband asked while at the recycling center. He was wondering why people are using only the center and not their own garbage recycling centers. She brought up a new system that her garbage company is offering that picks up everything that is commingled and is picked up at the foot of the driveway.

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

Mayor Phil Lubitz, thanked everyone for all there time and effort they put into the Township and the environment, and that it is so important all the volunteer work that everyone does for the Township.

Adjournment

It was moved by Jerry Fields, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:49P.M. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller,
Secretary