

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
April 26, 2011
7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:45P.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 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

Debbie Kratzer
Lois Voronin
Elaine Niemann
Gail Ashley
Cynthia Niciecki
Sandra McNicol
Richard Abbott

Absent

Joe Zgurzynski
David Posey

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

David A. DeFrange, II Cooper Creek Landscape Management Inc. of 1106 State Route 12, Frenchtown, NJ

Mr. DeFrange was unable to attend the meeting this evening.

Approval of the March 22, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion and Adoption of March 22, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Commission

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The Commission decided to table the March 22, 2011 approval of the minutes until next month, since David Posey is not present, as he gave a presentation on March 22, 2011.

Correspondence

Letter from the Hunterdon Land Trust – Re: Name and Location Change

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed a letter received from the Hunterdon Land Trust. She explained that the letter was to inform everyone that their name has changed from Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance, to Hunterdon Land Trust. They also noted that they have moved their offices to the DVOOR Farm on Mine Street in Flemington, NJ.

Reports

Authorization for Freshwater Wetlands Statewide General Permit, Water Quality Certification and Waiver of Transition Area for Access – Block 26 Lot 16, Victoria Farneski

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Preliminary & Final Major Site Plan – Proposed Point Breeze Solar Farm, 550 Barbertown Point Breeze Road, Block 21, Lot 1

The Commission members reviewed and feel that they should submit their comments and suggestions to the Planning Board for review. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer offered to write a memo to the planning board from the environmental.

Letter of Interpretation-Extension Application NJDEP File No. 1016-06-0017.1 – Block 29, Lot 14

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Kingwood Twp. Septic Certifications of Completion for March 2011 – (Alterations and Repairs)

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Quarterly Homeowner Well Sampling Results for December 2010 thru February 2011 as requested by the NJDEP re: MEL Chemicals Inc.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

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Copy of Letter to Applicant Barry Rubin, Block 40, Lot 10 – Authorization for Freshwater Wetlands Statewide General Permit Water Quality Certification and Waiver of Transition Area of Access

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Notice from the N.J.D.E.P. re: Applicant: Sundancer Capital LLC – Comments and Revisions that need to be Completed for Further Review

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed

Notice from the N.J.D.E.P. re: Alethea Cleantech Advisors LLC – Comments and Revisions that are necessary to be Completed for Further Review

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer read aloud the following notice, and recommend that the Environmental Commission should submit their comments and suggestions to the Planning Board for review. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer offered to write a memo to the planning board from the environmental.

Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District

N/A

Recycling Update/Coordinator Cynthia Niciecki

Cynthia Niciecki Recycling Report for April 2011

Cynthia Niciecki read aloud the following report:

April 26, 2011 Kingwood Recycling Coordinator's Report

A clean-up was held at Kingwood's Recycling Depot on April 2, 2011. The Cub Scouts came and cleaned up all of the stuff that blew around in the field and down to the creek in the woods. Jack Search, the DPW Supervisor, was there with the back hoe to help take the bags to the dumpster.

Elaine and I met with Mark Petro at the DPW to discuss a plan to improve our operation of the Recycling Depot.

We had our Saturday Recycling Day on April 9, 2011. Jerry Fields came to help. Mayor Lubitz was there as well. Jerry moved away after that and he will be missed.

I sent in the Quarterly Municipal Monitoring Report to the County covering the first quarter of 2011.

The Electronics Collection Container from DonJon Recycling is in place at our depot. Residents can place their E-Waste items in front of the container and the DPW crew will stack inside. I posted a sign stating what items are accepted. It was also posted on the website.

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Three signs were ordered stating the hours of operation of our Recycling Depot as per request by Mark Petro.

I attended the SWAC Recycling Breakfast Talk and the SWAC monthly meeting.

I also attended Kingwood's first Business Roundtable Meeting where I informed the business owners present about the Tonnage Report and the list of recyclable items and the importance of submitting their recycling reports.

I have been working on the Tonnage Report for 2010 for the State of NJ, which is due on April 30. I will be meeting with Franklin Twp. DPW Supervisor Alan Dilley for assistance with electronic filing. I am still waiting for tonnage information from the County for the report.

The Recycling Dumpsters were each switched 3 times this month.

Everyone thanked Cynthia for her report.

Volunteer for May 14, 2011

Cynthia Niciecki reminded everyone that David Posey had volunteered to help out at the May 14th, recycling.

New Flyer on Electronic Recycling Collection Information

Cynthia Niciecki read aloud a new flyer of electronic information that is acceptable and what items are not acceptable that she had put together for the residents to bring to the recycling depot.

Acceptable Items: Computers, Laptops, Monitors, Keyboards, Mouse, Cables, Hard drives, Televisions, Scanners, Printers, Copiers, Fax Machines, Telephone Handset Systems, Cell phones, Home stereo and entertainment systems, Cameras, and Video equipment and Electronic scrap.

Unacceptable Items: Construction or Demolition debris, Solid waste, Hazardous materials and Liquid waste.

Cynthia Niciecki explained that there will be signs attached right onto the containers explaining the acceptable items and what is not acceptable.

Old Business

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

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Sandra McNicol is still working on the last minute details of the plan, and is reading up on more information to complete it. She and Richard Dodd's, the Chairman of the Planning Board, feel that the Open Space & Recreation Plan will be more coordinated.

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

Elaine Niemann and Sandra McNicol would like the Environmental Commission to comment on this draft ordinance before it is considered for adoption. The Planning Board is still working on the draft.

Wind Energy Ordinance Draft 1-12-2011 Update

Elaine Niemann and Sandra McNicol stated that the Planning Board has been working on this ordinance and felt that it is almost complete. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that when they are ready to share the draft she would like them to forward it onto the Environmental Commission for review.

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

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained the update of the involvement the Environmental Commission will have on the project. She explained that they are ready to start digging for the path as soon as the ground dries out a little more. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer will send an e-mail out to see if anyone would like to help with planting flowers and the maintenance of the project.

Driveway Procedures Update - "N.J.A.C. 7:7A-2.7 Transition areas due to freshwater wetlands on adjacent property

Elaine Niemann stated that she has all the information regarding the driveway installation procedures and will be presenting this to the Planning Board when she gets a chance. She stated she will bring it for the Environmental Commission to review, and then it will be brought to the Township Committee for consideration for amending the original ordinance.

Trash Handling on Open Space Properties – Specially New Trails – Update

Cynthia Niciecki explained that Open Space/Ag Advisory Committees asked her to order signs, which will be paid through Clean Community Funds to put up on open space properties to help with the trash problem. She explained that the signs will say: “Carry In – Carry Out”. This is to encourage visitors that bring trash into the parks to take the trash out with them.

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 – Review

Sandra McNicol explained that she attended the meeting. She noted that they are seeking donations to support their organization. She stated that they are doing a lot of work and having several meetings. She stated that at the meeting they explained that they are running a website and giving presentations. She noted that there was a discussion about plants and the concerns and stress on them. Sandra McNicol spoke of several invasive plants that are in the area. One of the plants she spoke about is called a mile a minute vine. She stressed to all the Commission members to look at the website listed. She asked that this be placed on the agenda for the next meeting in May to discuss a possible donation from the Environmental Commission.

Wastewater Management Plan - Draft Sewer Service Areas - Update

Elaine Niemann reported that there is no update at this time, and that the Township has decided to table the adoption of the septic ordinance at this time.

New Business

N/A

Action Items

Environmental Commission Site Plan Reviews

The Commission reviewed the plan and maps for the Preliminary & Final Major Site Plan – Proposed Point Breeze Solar Farm, 550 Barbertown Point Breeze Road, Block 21, Lot 1, at this time.

E.N. gave a brief review of some of the Solar applications that have been submitted to the Township. She explained that there has been an amendment to the Township's solar ordinance. She explained that they want to do the best for the Township and are concerned about the solar farms that are coming into the township. She explained what the ordinance included. She stated that the township still does not know what they will get for taxes, and not sure what is going to happen, Township is going to stand strong. Tax Assessor, David Gill will not know what the taxes will be for about 4 months. She noted that all the towns are keeping in contact with each other about the solar farms to learn what each town is doing with their solar ordinance. Environmental Commission stated that they would like to review all and any site plans that have been recently reviewed by the Planning Board. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer asked who would like to be on a subcommittee to review the plans. Sandra McNicol will look into what plans have been seen by the planning board already.

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Sustainable Jersey Program – Update

Elaine Niemann stated that they have been meeting and working on their Energy Audit for the Township.

MEL – Update

Gail Ashley reviewed the report regarding MEL and will look into this further and send the commission a more updated report.

Deer Overpopulation – Update

Cynthia Niciecki stated that there will be a speaker named Larry Herrighty coming to the Environment Commission meeting next month to speak. She stated that the deer are having babies this time of the year.

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

Cynthia Niciecki stated that all the trash has been picked up along the trail and she is addressing the problem to stop the trash from blowing to build a pad as a wind block. She stated that she has covered garbage that holds the loose bags.

Open Space

Open Space Chairwoman Sandra McNicol – Update on April 5, 2011 Open Space/Ag Advisory Committee Meeting

Sandra McNicol is hoping to have the spring hike on April 21st. She stated that she is not sure if the times will change from 3:00PM to 2:00PM, but she will let everyone know as soon as she can. There will be a hike somewhere else if the Felix family does not want visitors there at this time. Sandra noted that everyone is invited to the hike. She stated that it looks like the Horseshoe Bend property will be preserved at the end of May. Not a lot of other news to report at this time. She did mention that there has been many requests from Kingwood residents to preserve their property.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that ANJEC sent her several issues of their news letter, and she handed them out to members who were interested.

Cynthia Niciecki reported that there was a Clean Communities road side clean up with several of the members from the Unitarian Church.

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They did a one mile clean up along route 519 from Uncle Scotty's restaurant to Thatcher Road. She stated that they filled up about 15 bags of garbage along the way. This will be paid out of clean community funds towards non-profit organization. Debbie Kratzer noted that Boy Scouts cleaned up along the river walkway on Route 29.

Elaine Niemann mentioned that there will be a public hearing continuing for the Route 12 project ordinances on May 5, 2011 at the next Township Committee and at this meeting they will take comments from the public.

Lois Voronin asked if the Environmental Commission should put an article in the newspaper to inform other townships know about the solar farms that are looking to build in the area. She stated that there are regulations for stormwater control, and feels that there should be some control for solar farms as well.

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

Adjournment

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 P.M. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller,
Secretary