

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 24, 2012
7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:38P.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 by publication of the notice in the Hunterdon County Democrat and Courier News on February 9, 2012 and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Star Ledger, and the Express Times on February 1, 2012. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building and Post Office on February 1, 2012.

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
Gail Ashley
Sandra McNicol
Elaine Niemann
Cynthia Niciecki

Absent

David Posey
Joseph Zgurzynski
Richard Abbott

Nomination for Chairperson for the Environmental Commission for 2012

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to nominate Debbie Kratzer to be Chairwoman of the Environmental Commission for the year 2012.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to close the nomination for Chairwoman.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- Kratzer, Voronin, Ashley, McNicol, Niciecki
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- None
	Absent	- Posey

Nomination for Vice Chairperson for 2012

2.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to nominate Lois Voronin, Vice Chairwoman of the Environmental Commission for the year 2012.

It was moved by Gail Ashley, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to close the nomination for Vice Chairwoman.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- Kratzer, Voronin, Ashley, McNicol, Niciecki
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- None
	Absent	- Posey

Approval of Annual Meeting Dates and Times for 2012 for the Environmental Commission

The Commission Members discussed the dates and times of the monthly meetings to be scheduled for 2012. Elaine Niemann had a calendar to review the monthly dates. The Commission Members all agreed to keep the time of 7:30PM to begin the meetings. The following dates have been chosen for 2012:

January 24, 2012	July 24, 2012
February 28, 2012	August 28, 2012
March 27, 2012	September 25, 2012
April 24, 2012	October 23, 2012
May 22, 2012	November 27, 2012
June 26, 2012	December 18, 2012 (third Tuesday)

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to approve the annual month dates and times for the Environmental Meetings for 2012.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- Kratzer, Voronin, Ashley, McNicol, Niciecki
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- None
	Absent	- Posey

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

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to approve the local newspapers, the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News for Environmental Commission advertisements for the year 2012.

3.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- Kratzer, Voronin, Ashley, McNicol, Niciecki
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- None
	Absent	- Posey

Approval of the December 13, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Motion and Adoption of December 13, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes of Environmental Commission

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to approve the meeting minutes of the December 13, 2011 Regular meeting for the Environmental Commission.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- Kratzer, Ashley, McNicol,
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- Voronin
	Absent	- Posey

Correspondence

(2). Info from ANJEC Re: S3156 and A4335 Bills

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She explained that this extends the validity of the waste water and sewer service area designations. She explained that she wrote up a letter against the Bill. She asked if anyone had any comments. Gail Ashley noted that she sent a letter to a local representative, Eric Peterson. She stated that she gave him her opinion. She explained that Mr. Peterson wrote her a letter in response. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer stated that she is not sure it affects Kingwood.

(3). 2012 ANJEC Sustainable Land Use Planning Grants Application

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that this is the grant the Township received to work on the conservation plan. There was a discussion as to whether or not the planning board would be working on sections of the plan this year. There was a lengthy discussion on possible funds to work on the plan. Diane Laudenschlager stated that the Township Committee would need to address any additional funds to be put towards additional matching grants. Debbie Kratzer reviewed and read aloud a list of what elements may be covered by ANJEC. The Commission stated that they will have to give this some thought as to what could be considered. Debbie Kratzer noted that this application is due March 30th, 2012.

4.

Elaine Niemann made a suggestion that the Commission make recommendation to the Township Committee that we consider applying for a grant for the “the habitat protection.” Debbie Kratzer noted that it is called the statement of environmental impact and threatened and endangered species. Elaine Niemann suggested that the Township evaluate what additional expenses might be there to be incurred. She noted that she will look into whether there is any aspect of the master plan that would benefit for this community visioning. She also noted that there might be a zoning overlay on route 12 in the future and that the Township would want to have the community involved. She explained that this will have to be evaluated and consider what might work and be more productive for the people and the Township. Elaine Niemann stated that the Township Committee will have to discuss this at their meeting in the beginning of March.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the following meetings:

Notice of upcoming meetings:

1. ANJEC Teleconference Thurs. 2/2/12 at 5- 6 pm. Topic - The New State Strategic Plan. Call (973) 539-7547 or email info@anjec.org to register & for instructions.

Elaine Nieman noted that she will be attending this meeting.

2. Lower Delaware River Wild and Scenic Quarterly Meeting Tues. 1/31/2012 at 7 pm in Frenchtown NJ, at Borough Hall
<http://www.lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org>

Reports

Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the following Hunterdon County Soil Conservation correspondence.

- (4). Letter of Certification – Cacciabaudo Minor Subdivision – Block 37, Lots: 3.05, 3.06, and 3.07
- (5). Report of Compliance – Clean Generation Solar Energy V4-069 – Block 12, Lot 16 & 16.01
- (6). Report of Compliance - Clean Generation Solar Energy V4-070 – Block 15, Lot 4.03
- (7). Freshwater Wetlands – Letter of Interpretation/Line Verification – Block 40 Lots 8, 8.02, and 8.03

5.

- (8). MEL Chemicals – Quarterly Homeowner Well Sampling Results for September thru November 2011

Gail Ashley brought up that the Commission at one time talked about asking MEL Chemicals to agree to send digital copies of these results. She stated that the Commission might come up with an analysis and to see if there has been any change in the last year. Elaine Niemann offered to call and ask if they would give the Commission digital copies of the reports.

- (9). EffiSolar Energy Corp. W2-083 – Maser Consulting Engineers, Submission for Final Phase 1 Approval & Resolution Compliance for Phase 1 and 2 Preliminary Approval – Block 23, Lot 11

Sandra McNicol explained that they came before the Planning Board and they are working on their completeness. She stated that they are doing what they have to do to get final approval. There was a lengthy discussion.

- (10). EffiSolar Energy Corp. W2-083 Block 23, Lot 11 – Maintenance Plan

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

- (11). Sundancer Capital, LLC – Thebe Solar Park, Block 24, Lots 4 & 7- Amended Preliminary Site Plan Approval and Final Site Plan Approval – January 12th

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. Sandra McNicol noted that if the Commission does get to look at the plans, they will see that the solar arrays are indicated in some of the wetland areas, which she feels could be an environmental issue.

Old Business

Hydrofracking: Information and/or Studies

Gail Ashley gave a brief presentation on what hydrofracking is and how it fits in with other things throughout the country. She reviewed a few slides of the different types of shale and explained where the masala shale is located. She explained the process of fracking and how it is involved. There was a lengthy discussion, and also questions and suggestions from the Commission Members. Everyone thanked Gail Ashley for her presentation.

Sustainable Jersey - anti-idling – Update

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed a letter that was sent out to the school. She stated that she did not get a response back.

6.

Elaine Niemann noted that there was a resolution received by the State regarding the month of March being a month dedicated to anti-idling. The Commission feels that there should be information available to the public regarding ways to prevent idling in the Township. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that David Posey has a whole box from DEP with several handouts of information. Elaine Niemann stated that she has been invited to the Delaware Valley High School in a couple of weeks. She explained that elected officials have been asked if they would like to teach for the day. She stated that she volunteered to teach English.

Rocket Composter – Update

Gail Ashley reported that there is no update this month.

MEL Report– Update

Gail Ashley noted that the DEP has sent this back and is now waiting for a response.

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

Sandra McNicol noted that she reviewed the Planning Board minutes for November of 2011, and stated that they could not introduce the ordinance due to the time frame. Elaine Niemann explained that the issue was discrimination between majors and minors. She feels that this ordinance should be evaluated to see how much time would be needed to complete before bringing this to the planning board. She stated that it may be a good idea to recommend these ideas to the board.

New Business

(12). Invitation from Hunterdon County Department of Parks and Recreation to the Twelfth Annual Earth Day Celebration – Saturday, April 21, 2012

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She stated that they are asking organizations to have tables at the event, but she noted that they do not do tables at events of this sort.

(13). Thank you Letter from the New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the letter. She explained that the Commission needs to decide what they would like to choose to work on for a project. There was a discussion on possibly choosing the trail between the school and park and the trails along Horseshoe Bend Park.

7.

Choose a Recycling Coordinator

Elaine Niemann stated that this is not really what the Environmental Commission would do unless someone here that would volunteer to do the job. She explained that the Township Committee is still working on replacing Cindy Niciecki. She explained that they have an idea for two people who would share the job. She explained that the DPW will be physically managing and monitoring the recycling center at the garage. She explained that she is planning on getting Doug Frye to submit an estimate to install cameras at the center. She spoke with Doug and he is going to redo his bid and we will proceed with installing the cameras. She explained that this is necessary due to a lot of abuse that has been done at the sight. Elaine Niemann expressed that she would like to have someone in place by the February meeting.

Motion to Send a Letter to RVD for Single Stream Containers

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to approve to send a letter to Raritan Valley Disposal Requesting Single Stream Containers.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- Kratzer, Voronin, Ashley, McNicol, Niciecki
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- None
	Absent	- Posey

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer stated that Sandra McNicol and David Posey volunteered and worked the second Saturday in January for recycling. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer asked who would like to volunteer for second Saturday in February, on the 11th. Gail Ashley volunteered for February. Lois Voronin volunteered for the month of March. Cynthia Niciecki explained that she met with the Franklin DPW today and spoke with Alan Dilley and a representative from Greenstar, which is collection agency that they use for their depot and dumpsters. She stated that she got their contact information. She stated that it may be a possibility of getting our dumpsters taken out for free and some money for the commodities, which would save the Township a lot of money. She really wanted to get this done before giving up the job. She explained that she would like to get together with Elaine and discuss these options. Elaine Niemann stated that Cynthia Niciecki has really singularly taken our recycling numbers over 1,000% , and that the tonnage grant to fund our recycling has increased expeditiously. Cynthia Niciecki noted that she will still help Elaine with recycling and the next person that is hired for the job.

(14). End of the Year Report – Draft

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that she had prepared a draft. She explained that the Commission had done a lot over the last year.

8.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the list for the end of year report. She asked the Commission Members several questions regarding the list of things that were worked on during the year. She then stated that she would like to get the Commission's approval of the end of year report, so she can send the report to ANJEC and to the Township Committee for approval.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to approve the Annual End of Year Report with the amendments, and to send it to the Township Committee and to ANJEC.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- Kratzer, Voronin, Ashley, McNicol, Niciecki
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- None
	Absent	- Posey

(15.) Environmental Commission's Goals for 2012

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that she had put this together, and that it is very similar to the goals of 2011. Elaine Niemann noted that there will not be any key member as our recycling coordinator, but that she will remain being the alternate to SWAC. She stated that in all likelihood any key member will attend the SWAC meetings, and that the environmental commission will continue to volunteer to work on the second Saturday of each month. She reviewed what should be added and removed from the list. The Commission would like to keep recycling receptacles on the list to be put out at the park, and encourage curbside residential recycling along with the Township's. Elaine Niemann would like to see more roundtables with other municipalities Environmental Commissions to get together. She stated that it might be a good idea for the planning board to come up with some ideas to have a roundtable. There was an idea of scheduling a speaker to come. It was suggested to talk about septic systems, and to possibly have someone from the Hunterdon County Health Department come and speak and to invite the public to attend. Sandra McNicol stated that she was thinking about the County coming out and flooding septic systems and the expense involved. She stated that getting your septic system replaced is not a cheap thing and she stated that we don't know where finances will be in future years. She explained that it would be good to have an information session so that people can find out what the homeowner has to do to get ready to sell their home. Sandra McNicol offered to find out who she could get to come and speak at a meeting to the residents about septic systems.

New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team: www.njisst.org - priorities/activities for 2012

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that this has been reviewed earlier.

9.

(16a&b) Development of 8 3-bedroom homes for COAH on Township property

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer briefly stated that there are going to be several units for affordable housing build on the Ukarish Property. She stated that she really did not know much about this project. Elaine Niemann gave a lengthy description of where the Township is at now with the development of affordable housing on the Ukarish property.

Legislation: Bill A4358 Establishes forest harvest program on State-owned land

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She feels that the Township should be in opposition to this bill, and it should be either from the Environmental Commission or the Township Committee.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to approve that the Environmental Commission prepare a letter opposing Assembly Bill No. 4358 that involves forest harvesting and sale of lumber.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- Kratzer, Voronin, Ashley, McNicol, Niciecki
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- None
	Absent	- Posey

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to encourage the Township Committee to adopt a resolution opposing Assembly Bill No. 4358.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- Kratzer, Voronin, Ashley, McNicol, Niciecki
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- None
	Absent	- Posey

Legislation: Bill A4335 Extends validity of wastewater service area and sewer service area designations, and revises certain aspects of wastewater management planning process

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Draft Final State Strategic Plan: NJ'S State Development and Redevelopment Plan:
<http://www.state.nj.us/state/planning/plan-draft-final.html>

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

10.

(17). D.E.P. Expands Land Use E-Permitting Program

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(18). 2012 New Jersey Land Conservation Rally – Saturday, March 10th, 2012 at the Brookdale Community College

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Open Space

Sandy McNicol – Reports on Open Space Advisory/Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting from January 10, 2012

Sandra McNicol explained that there was some good news to share. She noted that Richard Dodds has drafted a Memorandum of Agreement and also spoke with representatives from the State regarding the Horseshoe Bend Park, Flagg Property and Kirkland property, and would like to get trails started on all three properties. She explained that Richard Dodds has done the bulk of the work filling out the trails grant application for a possible grant the Township could receive in the amount of \$25,000. She stated that there is not too much to report on open space at this time. She stated that the Maplewood farm is moving along near the north east part of the Township. Elaine Niemann stated that the trails grant awarded in October that has been given to the Township to use in 2013.

Ceremony for Eagle Scout

Elaine Niemann explained that Keith Augustine, will be having his Eagle Scout Ceremony at the Delaware Valley High School on March 17, 2012. She stated that she will be attending the ceremony. She mentioned that a number of the Environmental Commission members were involved and enjoyed working with Keith on his project and that Keith would be happy to have them attend. Elaine stated that it was a great Eagle Scout project that Keith Augustine worked on at the Kingwood Park. She noted that his garden, walkway and kiosk will be a great asset to the Kingwood Park for many years to come.

Adjournment

It was moved by Gail Ashley, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:08PM. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

The minutes were recorded by Diane Laudenbach and prepared by Cynthia Keller.

Respectfully submitted
Cynthia L. Keller, Secretary