

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 27, 2012  
7:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:40P.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  
Elaine Niemann  
Cynthia Niciecki  
Sandra McNicol  
Lois Voronin  
Timothy Cahalin

Absent

Joseph Zgurzynski  
Richard Abbott  
Gail Ashley  
David Posey

**Minutes**

- (1). Approval of the January 24, 2012 Environmental Commission Minutes (carried from last month)

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to approve the meeting minutes of the January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting minutes for the Environmental Commission.

**Roll Call Vote:**

<b>Aye</b>	<b>- Kratzer, Voronin, McNicol, Niciecki</b>
<b>Nay</b>	<b>- None</b>
<b>Abstain</b>	<b>- Cahalin</b>
<b>Absent</b>	<b>- Posey, Ashley</b>

- (2). Approval of the February 28, 2012 Environmental Commission Minutes

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to approve the meeting minutes of the February 28, 2012 meeting minutes for the Environmental Commission.

2.

<b>Roll Call Vote:</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>- Kratzer, McNicol, Niciecki, Cahalin</b>
	<b>Nay</b>	<b>- None</b>
	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>- Voronin</b>
	<b>Absent</b>	<b>- Posey, Ashley</b>

### **Correspondence**

(3). Reminder: Annual Meeting Agenda for NJ Invasive Species Strike Team March 29, 2012

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer and Sandra McNicol stated that they will be attending the meeting. They explained that they would like to see what they can do for Kingwood Township.

### **Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District**

See below under #11

(4). Copy of Letter to the from the Hunterdon Land Trust Re: Trestensky Bl 24, Lots 13, 13.08, 13.09, 13.10

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

### **Reports**

(5). Block 39, Lot 7 Re: Transition Area Waiver-Averaging Plan Application

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She noted that this property is located on the corner of Barbertown Idell Road, right across from the Idell Preserve property. She stated that there is an area of wetlands in the corner of the property. Sandra McNicol and Elaine Niemann, who are also members of the Planning Board commented on the property and suggested that the Commission look into this property for further information. Sandra McNicol suggested asking the D.E.P. to keep the Commission informed.

(6). MEL Chemicals Re: Quarterly Homeowner Well Sampling Results Dec 2011 – Feb 2012

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. Elaine Niemann stated that she called to speak to someone about these results and will hopefully have more information for next month's meeting. She stated that when they call her back, she will be asking them for a data sheet form to keep track of how the samples are changing.

(7). Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification NJDEP Case – 193 Kingwood Locktown Road

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

3.

(8). Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification NJDEP Case – Rte 12 Business Park

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She stated that the nitrogen in the septic system has exceeded its limit. There was a brief discussion as to why this may be happening so often. Elaine Niemann feels that it is because it is lack of utilization. She stated that the Kingwood School also has this same issue.

**Old Business**

Sustainable Jersey – Green Team Update

Tim Cahalin gave an update and stated that he would like to begin by focusing on the energy audit, and then he will go back and look at the remaining issues in order to get certification for the Township. He explained that there are certain categories, and that we need to use a certain amount of electricity in order to qualify. He noted that if we do not use enough energy, it will not pay to do the remediation, because we will never get the money back. He stated that based on the preliminary analysis that the Township has enough points to get certified based on items that are already in the works. He stated that there are a lot of duplications. He stated an example like the anti-idling, which gives the Township 10 points, and the energy audit 20 points or larger. He feels that once we submit the projects the Township will receive points for each one. He stated that the Township has 150 points just by going through what we currently have and submitting the projects. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that by having an ERI we will get several points. He stated that just by having an Environmental Commission give us points. He would like to work on new projects in the future, but first see what the Township has and what we need to obtain more points. He explained that he will go through the application and see what we need to do to get things started and improve many areas of the Township. He plans on calling the Sustainable Jersey helpline to see what the Township needs to obtain to get things started.

Recycling Update – New Coordinator

Elaine Niemann explained that Lynn Porter has been working on the tonnage reports for recycling, which she will to give to Franklin Township's Supervisor who is certified to submit. She stated that cameras will be installed to catch anyone that is illegally dumping at the recycling center. It was noted that one will be located at the gate where people enter into the recycling center, and one near the recycling center itself. This is to minimize the amount of illegal dumping. Cynthia Niciecki stated that she had spoken to a woman from the Don Jon E-Waste Company and she would like to encourage the Township to get the containers dumped more often. She suggested that information be placed on the website to encourage people to bring more electronics to be disposed. There is a list on the recycling instruction sheet of all the electronics allowed to be disposed.

4.

#### Rocket Composter – Update

Debbie Kratzer noted that Gail Ashley is not present this evening to comment.

Tim Cahalin asked if the Rocket Composter is through the Sustainable Jersey, because it is on the list as a project to obtain points.

#### MEL – Update

No updates.

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

Sandra McNicol stated that there was a discussion with the Planning Board members regarding the ordinance. She explained that the Board Members asked the a the Planning Board attorney to look it over and see what he recommends. Sandra McNicol feels that it should be reviewed at the next Planning Board meeting in April. Tim Cahalin stated that this ordinance will give the Township 50 points for Sustainable Jersey.

#### Forest Harvest Bill - Update

Elaine Niemann briefly reviewed the Forest Harvest Bill. She talked about her experience she had when she went to Deer Path Park for a tour of the park with representatives from the D.E.P., to look at the damage that it did to the forest. She stated that the representatives invited all of those present to go to a meeting in Trenton to discuss the Bill. Sandra McNicol explained what she knew about the Bill. There was a very lengthy discussion regarding the Bill and the logging. The Commission Members stated that they would like to keep on this Bill.

#### Driveway Ordinance – Update

Sandra McNicol stated that the Planning Board has not had a chance to look at this ordinance, but that she will suggest that the subcommittee get together to work on it in the near future.

#### Horseshoe Bend Park - Update

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that a Girl Scout Leader has scheduled a day at the Horseshoe Bend Park to plant seedling trees. She explained that this was to replace trees that were lost from the storm in October of 2011. The Girls Scouts will be planting the trees on April 21, at 10:00am. She noted that they will be having refreshments for all the helpers. Debbie Kratzer explained that the woman she spoke to is trying to get donations for fencing to go around the trees. She talked about where they will be planting the trees.

5.

She stated that she hopes they are labeled so they know where the best places to plant the trees. She also stated that there will be approximately 100 small trees planted at the park on that day.

#### March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Open Meeting at the Horseshoe Bend Park

Sandra McNicol reviewed the meeting that took place at the Horseshoe Bend Park on March 9th. She stated that there were several ideas presented as to what should be done with the buildings on the park grounds. She stated that they made a list of ideas that were discussed. Sandra McNicol stated that there will be another public meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 7:00pm at the Kingwood School to discuss the Horseshoe Bend Park. Elaine Niemann stated that this open meeting will be for anyone that has questions, or suggestions for the park. Debbie Kratzer would like to meet with the Parks and Recreation Committee to see what they would like on the website regarding the parks.

#### **New Business**

- (9). Review Preliminary and Final Site Inspection for Effie Solar, Block 23, Lot 11 (One Site Plan to Open up and Review) Maintenance Plan Attached Copy

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. Sandra McNicol talked about the native plants and trees that they should be putting in between the solar panels. She stated that she obtained this information from the Hunterdon County Soil Conservation. She stated that she has also talked to the Township's Planner regarding this plan.

#### Discussion on How the Solar Panels are Doing at the Township Garage

There was a brief discussion regarding the solar panels that are on the roof of the Township garage. Elaine Niemann briefly explained that they are doing well and have saved the Township a lot of money by having them. There was a brief discussion on the website the solar companies have for the public to go on to review.

- (10). Freshwater Wetlands Letter of Interpretation/Line Verification Block 38, Lots 17,18,19.01 EffiSolar Energy Corporation

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

- (11). Letter of Certification from the HC Soil Conservation District Re: Ukarish Subdivision – Duplex Housing Block 19, Lot 5

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. The Commission reviewed the final approval site plans for a variance by the Board of Adjustment for the Ukarish property for 4 units, which will be affordable housing. Elaine Niemann explained the process of what the Township is currently doing with the Ukarish property and the affordable housing units with Habitat with Humanity.

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Elaine Niemann feels that it will be a project that the Township will have completed that will be a large accomplishment that has been needed to be done for a while now. She reviewed a brief history of the COAH program and what Kingwood has plans to do to meet the affordable housing obligation.

(12). Stormwater Public Education Points

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She explained all the activities, and what their points were worth. The following is a list of the education approved activities and point totals:

## **Attachment B**

### **Local Public Education Approved Activities and Point Totals**

**A. Tier B Municipalities shall conduct educational activities that total a minimum of 10 points annually.**

**Each approved activity is listed below with an assigned point value.**

- 1. School Presentations** - Present educational classes/assemblies to local elementary, middle, and/or high school classes. (1 point per visit / maximum of 5 points per year)
- 2. Website** – Maintain a stormwater related page on the municipal website and include a link to [www.cleanwaternj.org](http://www.cleanwaternj.org). (1 point)
- 3. Stormwater Display** – Present a stormwater related display and materials at any municipal event (e.g., Earth Day, town picnic) or maintain a display at the municipal building (2 points)
- 4. Giveaway** – Distribute an item with a stormwater related message (e.g., refrigerator magnets, temporary tattoos, bookmarks, coloring books, and pens or pencils). Municipality must purchase a minimum number of the item equal to 10% of the municipal population. (2 points)
- 5. Citizen Stormwater Advisory Committee** – Establish a subcommittee to the Environmental Commission to identify, coordinate and implement stormwater related programs. (2 points)
- 6. Utilize Department Materials** - Use Department created stormwater education materials, which can be found on [www.cleanwaternj.org](http://www.cleanwaternj.org) to publish an ad in a newspaper that serves the municipality; broadcast a radio or television commercial on a local radio or municipal public service channel; produce a billboard or sign which can be displayed on a bus, bus stop shelter, or at a recreation field (outfield sign). (2 points each / maximum of 4 points per year)
- 7. Poster Contest** – Organize a poster contest with a local school district. Poster themes shall have an appropriate stormwater message. Posters are to be displayed at buildings within the municipality such as at the town hall, library, or school. (2 points)

7.

8. **Stormwater Training for Elected Municipal Officials** – Conduct a program for all elected municipal officials which educates them on the Stormwater Management Rules (N.J.A.C. 7:8), Tier B Permit and what steps the municipality has already taken to minimize stormwater pollution. (3 points)

9. **Mural** – Facilitate the planning and painting of a stormwater pollution themed mural at a local downtown/commercial area. (3 points)

10. **Mailing** – Distribute any of the Department’s educational brochures, tip cards, or a municipally produced equivalent (e.g, calendar, recycling schedule), to every resident and business in the municipality. (3 points)

11. **Partnership Agreement / Local Event** - Identify and enter into a partnership agreement with a local group such as a watershed organization, Riverkeeper, school, youth/faith based group and/or other nonprofit to carry out a minimum of two (2) watershed stewardship/education activities (e.g., litter march, stream/beach cleanup). (3 points)

12. **Educational Activity** –educational activity concerning pet waste, littering, improper disposal of waste, wildlife feeding, yard waste, illicit connections, refuse containers. (5 points)

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that she will send a copy to the Township’s Engineer.

(13). NJDEP Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS) 2012 Small Community (Population < 10,000) Needs Form

Elaine Niemann noted that this was referred to the Township’s Board of Health to review.

### **Open Space**

Sandy McNicol – Reports on Open Space Advisory/Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting from March 6, 2012.

Chairwoman of the Open Space Committee gave a brief review of the Township’s Open Public meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Horseshoe Bend Park. She noted that everyone’s budget is very tight and everyone wants to preserve their land at this time. She stated that it will not be long until the Trstensky property is preserved.

Elaine Niemann briefly reviewed the concern they all have about the County Open Space Program and if it will be in existence in the future. She explained that the County would like to use the Township’s Open Space funds for the Hunterdon County Planning Department.

8.

**Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor**

No comments.

**Adjournment**

It was moved by Cynthia Niciecki, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:30PM. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller,  
Secretary