

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 28, 2012  
7:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:36P.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  
David Posey  
Cynthia Niciecki  
Elaine Niemann

**Absent**

Richard Abbott  
Joe Zgurzynski  
Timothy Cahalin

**Minutes**

- (1). Approval of the July 24, 2012 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

It was moved by David Posey, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to approve the meeting minutes of the July 24, 2012 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting.

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

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### **Correspondence**

(2). Letter from Delaware Township Re: Bulls Island

Sandra McNicol stated that it was good they sent this letter to Kingwood Township. There was a brief discussion on the letter and what the States plan is to do with the trees. They also agreed with what Roger Locandro, Ph.D., a Delaware Twp. resident and former Cook College professor recommended regarding urging the NJDEP to cordon off the area of concern, so that the public area cannot access that area. They feel that the NJDEP should retain that portion of the park in its current natural state. David Posey stated that it is unknown of how dangerous some of the trees could be. Sandra McNicol talked about a meeting she attended with the D & R Canal and shared some of the information. She also reviewed a letter from the New Jersey Conservation Foundation regarding habitat restoration at Bull's Island.

(3). 2012 ANJEC Environmental Achievement Award Application Deadline – Friday September 7th

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer asked the Commissioners if they had any ideas for an achievement award project for this year. The Commission did not think they had anything for this year, but maybe for next year.

(4). Copy of Letter to Commissioner Martin NJDEP – From Mayor Niemann Re: Bull's Island State Park

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the letter Mayor Niemann wrote for Kingwood Township.

(5). Public Notice – From State N.J. CWSRF Program

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that this is regarding stormwater and sewage treatment plants and that this does not apply to Kingwood Township at this time, but that it may be a way to obtain funds if needed.

(6). Rain Barrel Train the Trainer – Sept 27, 2012

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer asked everyone if they were interested. She stated that if they were interested, they could keep an eye out to see if there will be another training session closer. She noted that this would be beneficial for someone who has a very small garden.

### **Reports**

(7). Freshwater Wetlands and Flood Hazard Area - Application Notice to Neighboring Landowners re: Nishisakawick Creek - Maser Consulting

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### **Reports Continued**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that this is the streamside restoration in Frenchtown. She asked if anyone knew who to speak to in the Borough of Frenchtown regarding this project. She noted that the stream is eroding.

- (8). Freshwater Wetlands Permit Transition Area Waiver Application – 60 Barbertown Pt. Brz. Rd. And 18 Muddy Run Road – Block 24 – Lots 4 and 7

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that they are still in the process of working on the area and that this is a solar project. Sandra McNicol stated that the Environmental Commission should be able to review the information from the State. David Posey noted that a record request needs to be filled out and sent in by e-mail to the State NJDEP, and then the Commission would be able to obtain more information on this application. Debbie Kratzer noted that she will contact the State to obtain the information.

- (9). QC Laboratories – Analytical Report – Park Pavilion Water Test for July

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the report for the park pavilion.

- (10). QC Laboratories – Analytical Report – Residence Outside Spigot Sample of July

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the report for the residence at the park

- (11). Suspected Hazardous Sub Discharge Notification NJDEP– 837 County Rt. 519

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

- (12). MEL Chemicals Inc. – Quarterly Homeowner Well Sampling Results

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. There was a brief discussion on how the Commission could possibly find out more info on the wells.

### **Old Business**

- (13). Copy of Letter from the NJDEP re: Block 33 Lot 3.04 15 Barcroft Road

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Implementation of the Lockatong and Wickecheoke Creek Watersheds Plan – update

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer stated that there is no update at this time.

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#### Invasive Species – Update and Info

Debbie Kratzer stated that she and Jill Dodds were out there with two other employees from the Invasive Species Team. She noted that there is more information on their website if anyone would like to learn more about the species. Debbie Kratzer supplied everyone with a map of the Horseshoe Bend Park and explained where they walked. She explained a variety of plants that they saw, such as Chinese bush clover, and orange eye butterfly bush. She stated that Chinese silver grass was also spotted at the Kingwood Park near the park residence. She noted that this could get out of hand and should probably be taken out. She also reviewed what they saw at the Idell Preserve, which she noted is a very wetland area. She noted that they walked around the DeRewal Site and described several plants they saw there. She noted that there were a few spots where there were Chinese silver grass. She stated that they focus on thirty different species. She stated that next year the Commission should be able to go out and find them on their own.

#### **Action Items:**

#### Sustainable Jersey – Update

Elaine Niemann noted that Tim Cahalin was not present, but that he completed the audit report and is planning on having the report submitted by the end of the year.

#### Recycling Update and Volunteer for Month of September

The Commission reviewed the report submitted by Lynn Porter the township's Recycling Coordinator. They reviewed the tonnage report and the totals that they have this year. The Commission stated that the numbers are much greater than in years past. They reviewed the recycling report, and the clean communities update. Elaine Niemann stated that Lynn Porter will be setting up a display on Community Day.

Elaine Niemann offered to volunteer for the second Saturday in September on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### Rocket Composter – Update

Gail Ashley noted that she will look to see if anyone is interested in this project in this area.

#### MEL – Update

There was a brief discussion on the report they received last year and did not hear anything further on the report. David Posey talked about the remediation of the properties in that area near MEL and the cleanup process that they go through after it has been contaminated. Gail Ashley noted that she would like to look into the results, and into the contamination that has occurred from the plant.

#### Forest Harvest Bill - Update

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Sandra McNicol gave an update of what she knew about the Forest Harvest Bill.

#### Driveway Ordinance – Update

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that the Commission should try to get together to work on this ordinance in the near future.

#### Kingwood Park Native Plant Rain Garden – Update

There was a brief discussion regarding working on the native rain garden. Debbie Kratzer asked who would be interested in weeding the garden at the Kingwood Park. Elaine Niemann offered to help out after Labor Day.

#### Horseshoe Bend Park – Update

Elaine Niemann reviewed an update of what the township has been doing regarding the Horseshoe Bend Park. She explained that the township has entered into an agreement with the State to manage over 400 acres of both state and township properties along Horseshoe Bend and Fairview Road. She explained the plans for hunting that will include all the properties. There was a brief discussion on the siting of bears in the township.

#### **Site Plan Review**

N/A

#### **New Business**

##### Community Day – Discuss Preparations

The Commission discussed who will be working at the table for the Environmental Commission on Community Day. Several members offered their help for that day. Lois Voronin offered to make the sheets for the sign up for the discount water testing and septic cleaning program.

(14). Flyer to Residents re: Discount Septic Cleaning and Water Tests

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed and noted it looks ready to send out.

#### **Open Space**

##### Sandy McNicol – Reports on Open Space Advisory/Agriculture Advisory Committee Updates – on the July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Meeting

Sandra McNicol gave a brief review of what was new with the Open Space and Ag Committees. She explained that they are hoping to obtain the Maplewood Farm. She stated that there are no green acres funds at this time.

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She noted that all the open space tax funds are already accounted towards projects to obtain properties. She noted that there are several people in the Township that are interested in preserving their properties.

Article – Contaminants Found in Wells

Sandra McNicol reviewed an article regarding contaminants found in wells that she wanted to share with everyone. She suggested that this article be posted at the table on Community Day for the residents to read. She noted that the article notes that Hunterdon County wells test higher in contaminants like arsenic, nitrate and volatile organic compounds than the statewide average.

Sandra McNicol noted that Lambertville and Milford both have medication boxes to drop old medicine bottles off to be disposed.

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

Adjournment

It was moved by Cynthia Niciecki, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:25PM. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller,  
Secretary