

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
September 25, 2012
7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:36P.M. Sandra McNicol called the meeting to order and read the following notice requirements. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer was absent.

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

Gail Ashley
Sandra McNicol
David Posey
Cynthia Niciecki
Elaine Niemann
Timothy Cahalin
Lois Voronin (arrived 7:45pm)

Absent

Debbie Kratzer
Richard Abbott
Joe Zgurzynski

Minutes

- (1). Approval of the August 28, 2012 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Cynthia Niciecki, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to approve the meeting minutes of the August 28, 2012 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting.

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

2.

Correspondence

- (2). The Clean Water Act at 40 – Saturday October 20, 2012 9:00am – 4:30pm Middlesex County College

Sandra McNicol read aloud and reviewed.

- (3). Notice from JM Sorge, Inc. Re: Public Notification and Outreach Form – Site – 963 Route 12

Sandra McNicol reviewed.

- (4). NJDEP Public Advised to be Alert for New Jersey Deer that May have EHD Virus; Disease

The Commission discussed the virus. Cynthia Niciecki explained what the (EHD) Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease Virus was all about.

Reports

- (5). Notice - Letter of Interpretation Block 35, Lot 7 from Jeff Tareila Environmental Consulting

Sandra McNicol reviewed the letter of interpretation for Block 35, Lot 7. She noted that there is a quite a bit of wetlands on the property.

Lois Voronin entered the meeting at this time.

Old Business

- (6). Invasive Species – Update and Sheet of Invasive Species in Kingwood

Sandra McNicol reviewed information that Chairman Debbie Kratzer had put together for the residents and the Commission to have for their information. She explained that this sheet is a list of the invasive species that the NJISST Organization has found in Kingwood Township.

- (7). Go Native – NJ Invasive Species Strike Team - 3 Easy Steps to Rid Invasive Plants from your Landscape

Sandra McNicol reviewed the information from Debbie Kratzer. She stated that if anyone is interested they are having a pot luck dinner on September 27th, at the Buffalo Farm in Readington Township. She stated that if anyone is interested she will forward the information.

3.

Action Items:

Sustainable Jersey – Update

Tim Cahalin noted that the entire inventory from the audit that he conducted is now ready to be submitted. He had several questions he needed answered regarding some facts about the buildings. Elaine Niemann stated that he needs to contact the C.F.O. and the Clerk of the township for the information to complete the inventory. He noted that once that the state enters the information and reviews our inventory, the township will be able to apply for grants.

Recycling Update Report From - Recycling Coordinator Lynn Porter

Sandra McNicol reviewed the report that was given to the Environmental Commission from Lynn Porter, the township's Recycling Coordinator. She explained that Lynn manned a booth for recycling at Community Day and she was also giving out handouts and answered their questions. She also made contact with the Hunterdon County Sheriff's Department to come to Community Day to help to inform the public of the new drop off box for unused prescription drugs. She stated that there are drop off stations at Lambertville City and also at the Holland Township Municipal building for old prescription drugs. She noted that our last cleanup day is October 13th on Saturday. Sandra McNicol read aloud that the household hazardous waste clean-up day at the county complex will be held on Saturday, November 10th, 2012. Gail Ashley noted that the Kingwood Township School is looking for someone to come and speak to the children regarding recycling. Gail Ashley offered to contact Lynn Porter and also contact the Kingwood School to inquire about a time and date to meet and speak to the children.

The following is a report that Lynn Porter prepared:

Recycling and clean communities update: September 25, 2012

Community Day 2012

Display and various handouts available to the public
Prescription drug drop off available courtesy of the Hunterdon County Sheriff's Dept. (flyer attached).

A permanent disposal container is located at The Justice Center on Park Ave in Flemington just inside the front door; do not need to go through security.

The Sheriff's Dept also picks up unused prescription drugs at the Division of Senior Services on Gauntt Place in Flemington on a regular basis.

Spoke with various organizations about the possibility of financial contributions available through the Township from clean communities grant funds to volunteer groups for authorized cleanups.

4.

Richard Dodds will be working with the Township engineer and others to identify cleanup areas.

Looking forward:

Last Township clean-up day for 2012 will be **October 13**

Computer and electronics collection day at the county complex will be held Saturday, **October 13, 2012** (please note that we recycle computer and electronics at the municipal garage on an ongoing basis and the Township receives additional monies and grant funding for our recycling efforts at the garage...plus, less gas is used to drive to the garage than to the county so better for the environment !)

Household hazardous waste clean-up day at the county complex will be held Saturday, **November 10, 2012**

We continue to have containers available at the Township garage for recycling of paper, cardboard, glass, metal, plastic and also containers for used clothing, scrap metal / light iron and of course computers and electronics.

Note: we can accept empty propane tanks at the garage to be recycled with the metal (M&A Recycling) BUT valve must be removed or visible hole in the valve/tank so we are sure the tank is empty.

Lynn Porter
Coordinator

Rocket Composter – Update

It was suggested to remove this from the agenda.

MEL – Update

Gail Ashley noted that she had a new update to report. She noted that there is a graduate student in the geography department who is interested in hydrology and water chemistry and pollution. She stated that this student is taking classes this year that involve ground water flow and obtaining data that is publicly available for her project. She explained that the student is planning to duplicate and model the ground water flow around MEL, as an independent resource research project for the course she is taking. She noted that once she gets into the project and understands the system she will want to enter the chemical data that is being collected at the various homes. She is hoping to put it together into a thesis project. Gail Ashley stated that she wanted to do a project that is local, and she stated that it looks promising. The Commission Members were pleased with the project that will be done at MEL.

5.

Forest Harvest Bill - Update

This was suggested to be removed from the agenda.

Bull's Island – Update

Elaine Niemann noted that the township has received a response from the NJDEP stating that they received the township's letter. She explained that the NJDEP noted that they are backing away from the whole plan for now, but would like to speak to all parties involved and have a meeting in the future. Elaine Niemann noted that they wanted to let us know that they will contact everyone on what they will be doing. Sandra McNicol noted that a petition went out and several people signed the document all over the world regarding this situation at Bull's Island. Elaine Niemann noted that the state has been working on the project. Sandra McNicol noted that Kingwood Township's Deputy Mayor Phil Lubitz, has been appointed as a member of the D & R Commission Board.

Driveway Ordinance – Update

The Commission Members have not met to review this ordinance.

Kingwood Park Native Plant Rain Garden – Update

The Commission briefly discussed the native plant rain garden at the park. Elaine Niemann noted that a few members weeded out the garden for Community Day and they found a frog living inside the garden.

Horseshoe Bend Park – Update

Sandra McNicol noted that there was a lottery for hunting with approximately 20 people who were chosen to hunt several different seasons of hunting on the preserved property. She explained that the hunters have strict rules to abide by in order to hunt in the park. She stated that they need to attend a mandatory meeting to get an overview of the rules and regulations they must abide by to make it a safe place to hunt for everyone. She gave an update on the dog leash free area and noted that someone is keeping the grass cut on that field. Sandra McNicol stated that the recycling coordinator replenished the doggie poop bags at the Horseshoe Bend Park. She explained that the park opens at dawn and closes at sunset with volunteers unlock the gates and lock them back up at night. Cynthia Niciecki noted that there is a trail ride planned at the park this Saturday, September 29th, if anyone is interested. Sandra McNicol wanted to thank Debbie Kratzer and all the others who put together all the information for their tables at Community Day.

Site Plan Review

N/A

New Business

6.

Community Day – Discuss Details of the Day

Sandra McNicol reviewed the memories of Community Day. Everyone that attended said it was great and that there were a lot of tables to visit, rides, good food and fantastic fireworks.

Discount Septic Cleaning and Water Tests – Update

The Commission discussed the amount of people that signed up for the discount septic cleaning and water testing program. Sandra McNicol noted that not as many people signed up this year compared to previous years.

Open Space

Sandy McNicol – Review of the September 4, 2012 Open Space and Ag Meeting

Sandra McNicol gave an update of the September 4, 2012 Open Space and Ag meeting. She stated that they had a booth at Community Day and put out several maps and information for the public. Elaine niemann explained that the township may have plans to possibly sell part of the Ukarish property. There was some discussion regarding the open space funds. She noted that Liz Schmid worked on an inventory of the preserved properties, and she will obtain an updated copy for the commission for next month's meeting. Sandra McNicol stated that the Land Trust does a tremendous job finding the funds from organizations to help out with preserving properties in the area.

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

N/A

Adjournment

It was moved by Cynthia Niciecki, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:34PM. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller,
Secretary