

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
December 18, 2012
7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:36P.M. Commission Member Sandra McNicol 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

Gail Ashley
Sandra McNicol
David Posey
Cynthia Niciecki
Timothy Cahalin
Elaine Niemann (arrived 8:00pm)

Absent

Deborah Kratzer
Lois Voronin
Richard Abbott
Joe Zgurzynski

Minutes

- (1). Approval of the October 23, 2012 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

It was moved by David Posey, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to approve the October 23, 2012 Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes with the following corrections:

First paragraph – sixth line replace the word (bloom) with (plume). Page #2 - Last paragraph under MEL – Update – last sentence – omit (to be prepared) at the end of the sentence. Sentence should read: She stated that he would like an agenda so they will have an idea of what the Commission would like to speak to them about. Page #2 - Under Recycling Update: Second sentence starting with Cynthia Niciecki stated that a representative from (**Don Johnson's**) recycling called her to congratulate her for starting the great recycling program and stated that Kingwood was third from the top for municipalities with the highest amount of recycling. The name (Don Johnson's should be replaced with the correct name - (**Don Jon's**).

2.

Page#5. Under Open Space – Sandra McNicol - Review of October 2, 2012 Open Space and Ag Mtg.

The end of the first sentence should be omitted (it was very difficult to preserve). Correction should read: Sandra McNicol explained that the Decker property near Kingwood Locktown Road, the State will be handling the preservation of the property.

Page#5 - Last sentence at top of page – The fish and wildlife are trying to create the wildlife for the animals and creat wild life for the habitat. Should state – The fish and wildlife are creating habitat for the wildlife.

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

Correspondence

N/A

Reports

(2). Analytical Report from Q.C. Labs Re: Tests Done at the Old Fairview School House on 10-19-2012

Sandra McNicol reviewed the results of the water test for the Old Fairview School House and stated all seems to be okay. It was suggested that it might be a good idea to obtain new quotes from several labs due to prices rising.

(3). Analytical Report from Q.C. Labs Re: Tests Done at the Kingwood Park Pavilion 200 Union Rd On 10-18-2012

Sandra McNicol reviewed the results of the water test for the pavilion area at the park and stated all seems to be okay.

(4). Analytical Report from Q.C. Labs re: Depe Drinking Water – Resident Outside Spigot at Kingwood Park, 200 Union Road

Sandra McNicol reviewed the results of the water test for the resident home outside spigot at the Kingwood Park and stated that all seems to be okay.

(5). Notice from the NJDEP re: Block 33, Lot 24.01 495 Byram Kingwood Road/Unregulated Heating Oil Tank Program

Sandra McNicol reviewed.

3.

(6). Copy of a Letter from L. B. Roth Law Offices

Sandra McNicol noted that this is a letter explaining that John Lutz from John Lutz Fabricating located on Route 12 just recently applied to have a freshwater wetlands permit. She noted that he is having a reconstruction of the septic system.

Elaine Niemann entered the meeting at this time.

Old Business

(7). Copy of Memo to Twp. Planning Board from EC Commission re: Solar Panels

Sandra McNicol noted that this was discussed at the Planning Board Meeting and referred to the Planning Board Attorney to review for recommendations and changes in the ordinance if needed. She explained that after the attorney reviewed the materials that he feels that Kingwood Township's ordinance already has all this information.

Action Items:

Sustainable Jersey – Update

Tim Cahalin stated that there is no update at this time.

Recycling Update

Sandra McNicol stated that there is no report this month from the Recycling Coordinator, Lynn Porter. Sandra McNicol stated that she went and cleaned up around the recycling bins after the hurricane and that there was a lot of debris spread out all over the property from the wind. Cynthia Niececki suggested that the Environmental Commission write a letter to the Department of Public Works and the Recycling Coordinator asking them for suggestions of what can be done to cover the bins. Sandra McNicol suggested that the township look into funds that may be available to purchase some kind of cover to enclose the recycling depot.

Recycling Volunteer – Saturday, January 12, 2012

Gail Ashley volunteered to work at the Recycling Center on Saturday, January 12, 2012.

MEL – Update

Elaine Niemann stated that she wrote a detailed note to Rich Portuese, representative from MEL regarding what the Environmental Commission would like him to provide to them, but she stated she has had no response.

4.

Driveway Ordinance – Update

Sandra McNicol noted that this needs to be worked on in 2013. She stated that Elaine Niemann received a message from the Construction Official, Mark Fornaciari who works for Kingwood and Franklin Townships regarding helping out with the details of the ordinance.

Horseshoe Bend Park – Update

Sandra McNicol noted that Richard Dodds gave an overview of what the volunteers worked on at the park. She stated that several volunteers came and spent the whole day clearing the white and orange trails from trees and branches that had fallen during the hurricane. Sandra McNicol suggested that she would like to have a sign put up to remind people to pick up after their dogs. She explained that there are doggie bags available at the foot of the leash free dog area and that several people are not using them. The Commission suggested that a memo be written to the Parks and Recreation Committee recommending that they approve and order a sign to be put up to encourage the public to pick up after their dogs.

Invasive Species – Update

Sandra McNicol noted that the Environmental Commission has not heard anything from Melissa from the New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team, as far as, any activity regarding the survey they worked on here in Kingwood. She noted that they will probably be coming back to meet with the Commission in the spring.

Site Plan Review

Sandra McNicol stated that there were no site plans to review this month. She stated that a solar facility along Barbertown Point Breeze Road and Route 12 was finally approved and their application was determined complete at the last Planning Board Meeting.

New Business

(8). Letter from the NJ Invasive Species Strike Team – Re: Contribution

Sandra McNicol reviewed.

(9). News Letter from the Land Conservancy of New Jersey (FYI)

Sandra McNicol stated that she looked on their webpage, and said that most of their work is done in north Jersey near Morristown and area.

5.

She stated that there is a lot of preservation in that area. Sandra McNicol noted that she is planning on speaking to Kate Buttolph from the Land Trust to help find another source of funding to assist in helping Kingwood preserve properties.

(10). 2013 Membership Dues for ANJEC

Sandra McNicol stated this will be discussed at the January meeting.

Schedule a Date and Time for the Reorganization Mtg. in January 2013 - January 22nd is the 4th Tues of the Month

The Commission discussed the best date for the reorganization meeting. They all agreed that January 22nd, 2013 at 7:30PM be the date that will be scheduled for the reorganization meeting.

Open Space

Sandy McNicol – Review December 4, 2012 Open Space and Ag Meeting

Sandra McNicol stated that she received good news from Open Space Advisory Committee member, Richard Dodds. He stated that the church and Covalesky properties that consist of 161 acres were approved by the County Freeholders. She explained that this is across the street from the Felix Farm, which is already preserved. She explained that this is also next to the Niciecki Farm. She explained that the funds contributed from the township will come out of the State Green Acres Fund, not the taxpayers. She noted that the Maplewood farm is moving along with a contract and will close on the property approximately in March of 2013. She noted there are a few others in the works, which the State will be handling. She stated that the Trstensky property will be closing in the near future. Sandra McNicol noted that Todd Kratzer had plans for a project at the Kingwood Park and that she called the H.C. Soil Conservation to find out more information. Elaine Niemann stated that the township received a letter from Bob O’Neil from the NJ Water Authority to inform the township that they would like to move forward on the project, and that there will be a new representative that will be working with the township.

Handout re: Radon Action Awareness Month

Sandra McNicol suggested that this be put in the files for the Commissions information. She suggested this be put on the agenda for next month.

Elaine Niemann stated that on January 20, 2013 from 9:00AM - 12:00PM there will be an event regarding Stream Cleaning by the Raritan Headwater’s Association and that all are welcome to come and help.

Gail Ashley gave an update of the work that was done by the county to improve the drainage along Route 519 to divert the water.

6.

She noted that the construction work created a problem along the road with the speed bumps. She explained what was causing the drainage problem in that area. She feels that the county did not study the problem before working on the project. Sandra McNicol thanked everyone for serving on the Commission this year and wished everyone a happy holiday.

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

Adjournment

It was moved by Cynthia Niciecki, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:40p.m. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller
Secretary