

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES
February 26, 2013
7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:40P.M. Vice-Chairman David Posey 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 the Courier News on January 31, 2013, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Express Times and the Star Ledger on January 23, 2013. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building in January 23, 2013.

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

David Posey
Lois Voronin
Sandra McNicol
Cynthia Niciecki
Diana Haywood
Debbie Kratzer arrived 7:50pm
Willard Reasoner

Absent

Gail Ashley
Timothy Cahalin
Joe Zgurzynski

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

Robert O’Neil, Principal Watershed Protection Specialist Present to give an update on:

- The Meadow Planting in Kingwood Park
- The Roadside Swale Project on Union Road
- The Tree Planting

Vice-Chairman David Posey introduced Robert O’Neil, Principal Watershed Protection Specialist who was present to discuss the project scheduled at the Kingwood Park. He explained there will be Meadow plantings and described how this will be completed.

2.

He reviewed a graphic summary of projects that will take place. He stated that the Township Committee recommended that Mr. O'Neil attend an Environmental Commission meeting to speak to the Commission for advice of what plants and trees that would be best to be planted. He also explained the roadside swale project and explained the map and pictures, which he provided for everyone to review.

Vice-Chairman David Posey asked what the time frame would be to start the project. Mr. O'Neil stated that the project will begin in the spring of 2013. There was a discussion of what kind of permits that would be needed before planting trees and plants at the park. Mr. O'Neil stated that permits will need to be obtained through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. He explained that the monitoring station will be hooked up after the project is completed. The Commission discussed the wetland areas of the Kingwood Park and stated that they feel the project will improve that area. Mr. O'Neil noted that the Park Director will have a new maintenance schedule, which should make it easier to mow. There was a discussion regarding finding volunteers to give their time planting trees and plants. Mr. O'Neil suggested the scouts or science clubs from the local schools. There was a discussion of what trees to plant that would survive the best in that area of the park. Everyone thanked Mr. O'Neil for coming and explaining the project to everyone.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer Chaired the meeting at this time.

Minutes

(1). Approval of January 22, 2013 Environmental Commission Regular Minutes

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by David Posey and carried to approve the January 22, 2013 Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes.

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

Correspondence

Notice of upcoming meetings:

(2). Reminder Notice of 17th Annual NJ Land Conservation Rally – Saturday, March 9th, 2013

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer asked if anyone was planning on attending this Rally. The Commission responded by stating not at this time.

3.

United States Department of the Interior – National Park Service – Re: Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers and Orientation Workshops April 10-12, 2013

Sandra McNicol explained that she received an e-mail from Katherine Suttle from the Land Trust who is involved with obtaining the grants for trail work from the National Park Service, which the Land Trust applied on Kingwood Township's behalf. Sandra McNicol noted that the National Park Service is looking for some feedback in regard to holding meetings to re-introduce the river to everyone. Sandra McNicol noted that she gave them some suggestions and dates for the meetings. She stated that these meetings will be to talk about the Partnership Wild and Scenic River, and that the time will be from 9:00am to 1:00pm. She stated that anyone who is interested in attending should call her.

Recycling News and Report – Update

There was no report this month from the Recycling Coordinator. Sandra McNicol stated that the Recycling Coordinator, Lynn Porter stated that the township will need to find someone to go to the SWAC meetings, as she is not a Kingwood resident and is not allowed to attend. Sandra McNicol explained the ideas she, Lynn Porter and the DPW Supervisor spoke about regarding a cover for the recycling bins.

Volunteer for Recycling Saturday, March 9th, 2013

David Posey volunteered for Saturday, March 9th, 2013 recycling day at the Department of Public Works from 9:00am – 12:00pm.

Reports

(3). MEL Chemicals Quarterly Homeowner Well Sampling Results

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(4). Notice from the NJDEP – Notice of Violation – Block 6, Lot 15

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(5). Copy of Letter from the NJDEP – Re: Block 6 Lot 54 1031 Route 519 – Area of Concern

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District

N/A

4.

Old Business

Radon Action Awareness Month

Cynthia Niciecki brought her results from her water tests she had performed from the US Department of Interior, U.S. Geological Survey. This was a study of the water quality in northern New Jersey's ground water supplies, which included occurrence, distribution, and concentration of radium, uranium, arsenic and other inorganic compounds that was conducted by the US Geological Survey with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Cynthia Niciecki stated that she has a high level of radon in her water. She stated that it was recommended that they take short showers, and put an exhaust fan in the bathroom.

Action Items:

Sustainable Jersey – Update

Tim Cahalin was not present at the meeting this evening. Willard Reasoner stated that he will be working with Mr. Cahalin on the sustainable project.

MEL – Update

Gail Ashley was not present at the meeting to give an update.

Driveway Ordinance – Update

Sandra McNicol noted that this has been worked on and will possibly be introduced in the near future at a Township Committee meeting.

Horseshoe Bend Park – Update

N/A

Invasive Species – Update

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer stated that there will be an annual meeting coming up soon on April 4th, 2013. She noted that the cost will be \$50.00 to attend if anyone is interested.

New Business

(6). Rain Barrel Training – March 6th, 2013

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed and asked if anyone would be interested in attending. There will be no one attending this year.

5.

(7). Workshop Programs – Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions

Willard Reasoner stated that he will be attending one of the workshops, which is on March 23rd, 2013.

(8). Copy of Letter from the NJDEP – Re: Approval of Grant Application Under the 2012 Recreational Trails Program

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed a letter the township received from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection informing them that they have been approved for a grant application under the 2012 Recreation Trail Program. The matching grant award is \$20,981.00. The funding for this project will be used to provide for trail improvements at Horseshoe Bend Park. The Sandra McNicol noted that there will be kiosks and signs for the trails.

(9). Copy of Ordinance No. 17-02-2013 Endangered Species and Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance Adopted by Twp. Comm. on February 7, 2013

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the ordinance and noted that this ordinance is official and finally adopted by the township.

Site Plan Review

(10). Tumble Partnership, LLP Block 32, Lots 10, & 11.02 – Final Subdivision

The Commission Members reviewed the map of the subdivision plans for the project.

End of the Year Report for 2012

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer stated that she is still working on the end of year report for 2012 and will have it for next month's meeting.

Environmental Commission's Goals for 2013

Willard Reasoner suggested the Environmental Commission complete and follow-up with the Sustainable Jersey project. Cynthia Niciecki suggested that the Commission work on getting the recycling center cleaned up, and making sure they work on getting a cover over the containers. Sandra McNicol suggested finding volunteers for the project with Robert O'Neil at the Kingwood Park.

(11). An Invitation from the Open Space and Ag Advisory Committee to attend their Meeting on March 5th, 2013 at 7:00pm.

Sandra McNicol briefly reviewed what will be discussed at the presentation on March 5th, 2013.

6.

She explained that there will be a presentation by Craig Chianese, Soil Conservationist and Evan Madlinger, Biologist with Natural Resources Conservation Service, NRCS, regarding their ideas on managing invasive plant species and habitat for threatened and endangered species of plant, birds, mammals and amphibians at Horseshoe Bend Park. She stated all are welcome to come and enjoy the presentation.

Open Space

Sandy McNicol – Review of the February 5, 2013 Open Space and Ag Meeting

Sandra McNicol gave an update of the February 5, 2013 Open Space and Ag Meeting. She noted that the Trstensky property will be closing in the near future. She explained that the property is located on Kingwood Locktown Road. She explained that Green Acres has informed the township that if they do not spend the funds that the township has banked, that they may take the funds away. She noted that the Open Space Committee is working on finding properties to purchase with the open space funds. She explained that there is a purchase that the township and the Land Trust are currently working on for the Covalesky and the Church property. She explained that there is also a preservation for the Maplewood Farm in the works.

Sandra McNicol explained that ANJEC has a new grant program available in regard to open space for a grant of \$1,500.00 available. She noted that the township would need to apply for the grant along with a requirement of 80 hours of work involved. She suggested that if the township receives this grant that the Melnyk property would be the ideal place to plant some kind of restoration in that area along the trail. She also review a few other suggestions for restoring areas in the township.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that ANJEC had a webinar that she wanted to do, but could not. She noted that if anyone would like to review it they can go to ANJEC's website and look up Partnering for Wildlife Habitat to read more about it.

Lois Voronin asked who will be maintaining the Natural Rain Garden at the Kingwood Park. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that she was in charge of taking care of it last year, but would be happy if someone would like to help out this year. She stated that the Environmental Commission has \$50.00 left from that project in an account to spend on plants or fences for the garden.

Adjournment

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by David Posey and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:04p.m. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia L. Keller
Secretary

