

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES
November 19, 2013
7:30 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 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

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Debbie Kratzer	Willard Reasoner
Lois Voronin	Cynthia Niciecki
Gail Ashley	
Sandra McNicol	
David Posey	
Diana Haywood	
Timothy Cahalin	
Joe Zgurzynski	

Heather Haberle, a resident of Kingwood Township who is interested in joining environmental commission was also present.

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

Lindsay Blanton, AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador – Present to Discuss Possible Projects in the Lockatong Creek Watershed

2.

Lindsay Blanton , Ambassador for the AmeriCorps Watershed introduced herself and gave a background of the experience she has had. She explained that she is currently working in her area, which is the Hamilton, Trenton area to Milford, and that they are given their AmeriCorps money through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. She explained that there are twenty ambassadors in the State of New Jersey. She noted that their program and her job is to educate the public. She stated that she goes to schools, trains adults, works on community service and monitors streams in the area. She is focusing on the Lockatong Creek and that is why she is here. She stated they work with the environmental commissions, local school organizations, green teams, and community projects such as rain barrels, rain gardens and clean-ups. She noted that they have deadlines and have partnership projects. She is hoping to get more projects in this area. She asked the Environmental Commission for their ideas for more projects they would like them to work on in the township. The Commission asked questions regarding what her goals are for the Lockatong. Lindsay explained that they feel that it is still eroded from Super Storm Sandy. She stated that she recently worked on two visuals of the Lockatong and feels that there was a decent amount of erosion, which is from the storm. She will be looking at any kind of stream bed restorations or green infrastructure projects along with rain gardens. Lindsay Blanton explained that this project will last for one year. She noted that she is kind of a tool for Environmental Commissions. She is interested in green infrastructure projects. She would like to do educational assessments of streams and anything that the community is interested in as far as water. She explained that the environmental commission can have an ongoing relationship with the AmeriCorps project. She handed her card out to the members, and told them to contact her anytime they can think of a project that needs to be done.

Minutes

(1). Approval of September 24, 2013 Environmental Commission Regular Minutes

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by David Posey and carried to approve the September 24, 2013 regular meeting minutes of the Environmental Commission.

Comments:

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

No Meeting Minutes for October 22, 2013 – Meeting Cancelled Due to Lack of Quorum

Correspondence

(2). Web Site FYI – Re: Detailed Info on Watershed Funding Opportunities

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that this was a website that was sent to the Municipal Clerk and she forwarded to the Environmental Commission for their information.

3.

Notice of upcoming meetings:

Recycling News and Update

Update from Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol

Sandra McNicol stated that all the recycling reports were submitted to the State of New Jersey. The 2012 Tonnage Report has gone to NJ DEP. The 2011 Clean Communities Statistical Report and the 2012 Clean Communities Statistical Report have all been submitted to the State. She noted that all the reports are up to date. She noted that there were three corrugated mixed paper and one co-mingled dumpsters. She noted that there was a request for a shelter for the recycling center. She explained that there has been a request sent to the State to use the Clean Communities Funds to pay for the sheltered recycling area. There was a lengthy discussion on the recycling center coverage area and what the Environmental Commission commented on their thoughts for a sheltered area. They suggested several other ideas for covers for the dumpsters to save money. Timothy Cahalin feels that a wall to prevent the items from blowing into the field would be less expensive. He offered to look into the cost for walls. Joe Zgurzynski suggested a net to cover the bins to keep the items in the bins. Sandra McNicol asked the opinion of the members for the recycling shelter. The majority of the members feel that they should save the money and look into other ideas. Sandra McNicol suggested to write a letter to the Township Committee explaining that the EC has other options and will provide them with the prices.

Sandra McNicol explained the process of the recycling and how Raritan Valley determines the tonnage. She noted that she is working with the DPW, the parks and everyone regarding recycling. She noted that they are going to put a sign up stating that the recycling is for residents only. She explained that the DPW moved some of the bins to work better for the public. She is taking care of the tires that have been sitting in the parking lot. She explained that a dumpster will be coming to put the tires in to be taken away. Joe Zgurzynski commented on American Tire that takes residents tires for free. Sandra McNicol noted that company called Inglings takes items that contain Freon to be removed from appliances that include the Freon at a cost of \$25.00 and up.

Volunteer for Saturday, December 14, 2013

Debbie Kratzer volunteered to help out at recycling on December 14, 2013.

Reports

(3). Letter of Interpretation – Block 19, Lot 14.05

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed a map of the property on the overhead projector. This is a letter of interpretation for an application for an approval for a permit to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection before any construction can be started. This property is located along Union Road.

4.

(4). Letter of Interpretation – Block 33, Lot 3.03

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed a map of the property on the overhead projector. The Commission Members discussed the property and the wetlands located on the property. This property is located on Barcroft Road.

(5). Letter of Interpretation – Block 39, Lot 15.02

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed a map of the property on the overhead projector. This property is located on Old Road off of Route 651.

Reports Continued

(6). Letter of Interpretation – Block 33, Lot 14.06

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed a map of the property on the overhead projector. This property is located on Barbertain Idell Road.

(7). Analytical Report from QC Labs (Women’s Bathroom) Kingwood Park

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted the results of the tests.

(8). Analytical Report from QC Labs (Outside Spigot) – Residence Kingwood Park

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted the results of the tests.

Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District

N/A

Old Business

Delaware River Tubing

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that this has been concluded at the Board of Adjustment Meeting and there is nothing to discuss at this time.

Action Items:

Sustainable Jersey – Update

Tim Cahalin and Diana Haywood noted that there are no updates at this time. They decided to make a date to meet and discuss grants and projects to be considered.

5.

MEL – Update

Gail Ashley noted that there is no update for this meeting, but will have info for the next meeting.

Horseshoe Bend Park – Update

(9). Hunterdon Co. Democrat Butterfly Article 10-17-2013

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the article from the Hunterdon County Democrat.

(10). Memo to Twp. Committee re: Park Rules

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that this has been introduced by the Township Committee as an amendment to the Park Rules. This ordinance will be finally adopted at the December 5, 2013 Township Committee Meeting.

(11). Rare Plant Found – Agastache Nepetoides (Yellow Giant Hyssop)

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed a color copy of the rare plants found at the Horseshoe Bend Park over the projector. She noted that this is a native plant. The Commission discussed their thoughts on the rare plants.

(12). Management of Habitats of Horseshoe Bend Preserve for Butterflies, other Pollinating Insects, and Grassland Birds

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that she and Sandy McNicol met with the North American Butterfly Association. Debbie Kratzer explained that this is a plan that a lot of work was put into it. She explained the details of the plan. Sandy McNicol noted that she and Debbie Kratzer asked them to come up with recommendations for managing the habitats to best preserve this diversity. She stated that she was very impressed by one field and she described where it is located. She explained that it is a field that has not been disturbed with a lot of native grasses and other plants. Debbie Kratzer noted that they will do what they can to maintain the area to keep it natural. She would like the Township Committee to approve the plan to maintain the area for the habitat. She would like to write a cover letter to accompany the plan for them to review and approve at their next meeting in December. She explained that the ideas in the plan will also be good for the birds.

Motion to Recommend to the Township Committee to Approve the Management of Habitats of Horseshoe Bend Preserve for Butterflies

It was moved by Lois Voronin, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to write a cover letter asking the Township Committees to support by accepting the Management of Habitats of Horseshoe Bend Preserve for Butterflies Plan.

6.

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

(13). Purchase Plant Tags to Label Gooseberries

Debbie Kratzer noted that she would like to purchase plant tags to label the “gooseberry plants, which are the host plant specifically”, for the “Gray Common Butterfly”. She explained that the North American Butterfly Association will be helping out with this project. She stated that they will be helping them identify the plant so they are not cut down.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to purchase yellow plant tags to label gooseberries for the butterflies at Horseshoe Bend Park.

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

Natural Resource Inventory –
Link:

http://www.kingwoodtownship.com/KT_Environmental/HorseshoeBendPark_NRI_Nov2013.pdf

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that this is available on the township website.

Kingwood Park

(14). NJWSA Kingwood Park Restoration Plan

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted this is a draft restoration plan that goes along with the program that has been going on for a couple of years. She noted that she received this draft of the plan. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the map of the Kingwood Park and the plan over the overhead projector. The Commission discussed the type of plants that would be best planted at the park in these areas.

New Business

(15). Environmental Commission Budget Request for 2014

7.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to approve the amount of \$900.00 for the Environmental Commission Budget Request for 2014.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye	- Kratzer, Voronin, Ashley, McNicol, Posey, Cahalin
Nay	- None
Abstain	- None
Absent	- C. Niciecki

(16). Letter from the NJDEP – Radon Action Month

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the letter from the NJDEP. It was suggested to put this information on the website for the public's information.

Site Plan Review

Conditional Use Site Plan – Block 17, Lot 8

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that this has been approved by the Planning Board.

Open Space

Sandra McNicol – Update on Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting of October 1 and November 12, 2013

Sandra McNicol reviewed an update on the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting of October 1st and November 12th, 2013. She stated that the reformed Church has signed a contract with the Land Trust and should be closing by March 2014. The Cooley property is approximately 100 acres and has been preserved with Green Acres funds. She noted that the buildings will be demolished on that property. She noted that there are a dozen other properties being considered by the State and that the list is growing of people that want to preserve their properties. She stated that the township would like to continue to preserve property, and the township should have the bond paid off with open space funds by 2021.

Sandra McNicol noted that while she was at the County Fair this summer, she found out about a program called the “County Animal Response Team” which is made up of volunteers and they are a response team. She explained that they have plans and information for anyone that have livestock or pets during a house fire. She stated that if anyone is interested they can look it up cart@co.hunterdon.nj.us. This is a site you can read about how to protect your animals and contact them for information.

Lois Voronin commended Debbie Kratzer for the great job she did on the Natural Resource Inventory for the Horseshoe Bend Park.

8.

Adjournment

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:45P.M. All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller
Secretary