

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 25, 2014  
7:30 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:39P.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 February 6, 2014, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Express Times and the Star Ledger on January 29, 2014. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on January 29, 2014.**

**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

**Absent**

Cynthia Niciecki  
Diana Haywood  
Timothy Cahalin  
Joe Zgurzynski  
Willard Reasoner

**Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that she would be going to #11 of the agenda to have guest Bob O’Neil who is present, speak about the Kingwood Park Restoration Plan. She welcomed Bob to the Environmental Commission meeting.

**Kingwood Park**

**(11a). New Jersey Water Supply Authority - NRCS Kingwood Park Restoration Plan – From Bob O’Neil**

2.

Bob O'Neil was present and noted that planting season is approaching. He reviewed the grasses that were planted last year, which was meant as a buffer to catch the run off from the adjacent farms. He stated that they are in the correct spot, but not sure if they are the right grasses. He explained that he checked with the professionals and they are not sure if they are the correct grasses for that area.

He noted that what is out there now is cool season grasses that are a quick spring growth, which gets lifeless looking in the summer and comes back in the fall. He stated that what the professionals recommended is to plant a warm season grass, which are later to develop more fuller in the summer and it clumps as it matures. He gave the reasons for the colors they will be choosing, which will be pollinators and also protect the natural habitat that live in the ground.

He noted that the first part is something they tried to work on last year, which someone told them it could not be done, which are to plant willow sticks along the bank to keep from eroding. He explained that he checked with other engineers and sure enough he verified that they can be planted without permits. He described how it will be done. He noted that it is all about timing as to when they should be planted. He stated they will do an in house test run at the end of March on the 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> of the month. He explained that the temperature is critical to the plants to keep them alive. He said that these dates are tentative, but they will harvest the stock on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> April, and they will be hoping to install them on April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, with alternate dates of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of April depending on the weather. He explained that they would like to have several of the children from the schools come and help plant for a day.

He noted that they are looking to do something with the soccer field in the lower part of the park near the creek, which has a water drainage problem. He noted that this is a prime area to have something done to improve the area. They would like to plant several different type of plants to help with the drainage. He explained that he will be meeting with the Parks and Recreation Committee next week to explain this project to them and to make sure they do not use this soccer field or will not be needing it for anything. He noted that the plants for the soccer field will not be planted until the summertime. He would like the plants to not only be functional, but to also look good and be colorful. He would like the plants planted up against the trees and leave as much of the field in case someone wants to use it to throw a ball around.

He noted that the existing patches that were planted last year, NRCS is tell him subject to the snow and all, they feel that those plants should be burned and replanted. He stated that they were just not the right plant for that area. He stated that it will look nice, especially in the second season.

There was a discussion whether the Commission would want to have pollinators at the park. Bob O'Neil explained that this will attract bees to the pretty plants. The Commission expressed an interest to go ahead and put pollinators at the park. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that as long as the children are not playing in that area, it should be okay.

3.

He explained that other part of the project would be along Union Road, which is a much lesser impact for anyone. He explained that this would be to correct the roadside drainage part of which is part of the entire project. He noted that those permits have been issued and that they are doing nothing but widening the existing ditch. He explained that it is very narrow and deep and just getting worse over the years. They want to slow it down and spread it out and let it infiltrate as best as it can. He explained that the idea is to get the Department of Public Works active, as the township's engineer has been very active.

He explained that the Parks and Recreation Committee had some concerns last year about the ditch swales that will be created.

He noted that they will be looking for volunteers when it is time to plant the flowers. Everyone thanked Bob O'Neil for coming to the meeting and explaining what they plan on doing at the Kingwood Park.

### **Minutes**

#### **(1). Approval of January 28, 2014 Environmental Commission Regular Minutes**

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to approve the January 28, 2014 Environmental Commission Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes.

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

### **Old Business**

#### **(2). Annual Report for 2013**

Debbie Kratzer noted that she put this together and this will go to the Township Committee and also a copy to ANJEC.

Lois Voronin feels that the ERI for the HBP should be entered into the County Planning Board for an award. The Commissioners agreed.

Everyone thanked Debbie Kratzer for all her hard work on the Annual Report for 2013.

It was moved by Gail Ashley, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to approve the Environmental Commissions Annual Report for 2013, and to submit to the Township Committee for approval.

4.

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

**(3). 2014 EC Objectives (Draft)**

The Commission reviewed the list of objectives for 2014.

There was a discussion regarding the recycling covers to contain the contents of the bins. Sandra McNicol noted that the township is not ready to make a commitment to put the funds towards a cover at this time.

There was a discussion on the Route 12 Corridor, which is being investigated by several members of the State, County and Township and the concerns the Environmental Commission has with this project. Sandra McNicol explained that the township received a grant to work on the project.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to approve the Kingwood Township Environmental Commission Objectives for 2014.

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

**New Business**

**(4). From ANJEC: Municipal Action Needed: Ask NJDEP to Restore the Recreational**

Debbie Kratzer noted that she will write a memo the Township Committee explaining that the Environmental Commission is in support of this restoration.

**(4a). Notification From Rockwood Pigments NA, Inc. Re: 2014 Annual Downstream**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

**Trails Grant Program**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

**Correspondence**

N/A

5.

**Notice of upcoming meetings:**

**(5). 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Land Conservation Rally- March 22, 2014 – Reminder**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed and noted that this is open to anyone that would like to attend the Rally.

**Saturday March 15 – D&R Canal Path Clean-Up Organized by Watershed Ambassador (AmeriCorps)**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed and noted that this is open to anyone that would like to volunteer. She explained that they chose this date because it happens to be National Watershed Ambassador Week.

**Recycling News and Update**

**Update from Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol**

Sandra McNicol noted that Willard Reasoner was on duty for the Recycling Saturday on February 8<sup>th</sup> and he did a great job. She stated that she was interviewed by a boy scout who is looking to learn more and also volunteer at the recycling to obtain his merit badges. Sandra McNicol explained the changes in the Cleanup Program this year. She noted that the charge for taking things to the cleanup have gone down due to Clean Community Funds from the state. She noted she has been obtaining lists of tonnage from businesses in the township for tonnage report. She would like to find out from more garbage companies their tonnage amounts to include their tonnage so she can get an idea of how many people are using the township's recycling depot. She noted that half the funds will start coming out of the recycling grant to pay for the recycling dumpsters.

There was a discussion regarding residents from other towns dropping off their recycling at the Kingwood Township recycling depot. It was suggested by Gail Ashley that the township order a sign and put it up at the recycling depot. She suggested it say "The Depot is for Kingwood Township Residents Only". Sandra McNicol will look into ordering a sign. She noted that this also will come out of the recycling grant funds to pay for the sign.

**Reports**

**(6). Notice of Violation from NJDEP – Block 51, Lot 30**

**(6a). Map of Block 51, Lot 30**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the property over the overhead projector.

**(7). Notice from the NJDEP – Re: Block 33, Lot 3.03 LOI – Line Verification**

**(7a). Map of Block 51, Lot 30**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the property over the overhead projector.

6.

**(8). Notice from the NJDEP – Re: Block 19, Lot 14.05 – LOI – Line Verification**  
**(8a). Map of Block 19, Lot 14.05**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the property over the overhead projector.

**Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District**

N/A

**Action Items:**

**Sustainable Jersey – Update from Timothy Cahalin and Diana Haywood**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed an e-mail from Tim Cahalin regarding the Sustainable Jersey, which was a link. He asked the interested parties to review the “actions” and to see if anything the township has been involved with concerning the Environmental Commission, applies to any of the named action items. He is asking if anyone was interested in getting involved in the process of getting Kingwood Township certified. He noted that this certification allows the township to apply for grants that provide well needed money. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that she went to the website and got back to Tim Cahalin. She suggested that if anyone has time to go to the website.

**MEL – Update on Site Remediation Meeting with Representatives from MEL**

Gail Ashley noted that she heard from Bill Kraft of Environ International Corporation, who expressed that he would be very happy to set up a meeting, but that the representative who will be attending from MEL lives out of state and would like to meet when in the area. She stated that they will provide the data that the Commission is interested in reviewing. She reviewed the reports that were recently sent to the township. She noted that they are currently still testing the wells in homes near MEL, but that she is concerned about the twenty homes, which are on Barbertown Point Breeze Road across from MEL which were all polluted. David Posey reviewed the process of the MOA between MEL and the state, which he explained is not in affect any longer.

**(9). Homeowner Well Sampling Results for Feb, May, Aug and Nov 2013**

Gail Ashley commented on the reports. She would like to look over results from several years back. There was a discussion if whether or not the residents living near MEL are concerned about the pollution in their wells. Lois Voronin stated that years back there were several residents that were concerned.

**(10). 2014 Open Space Stewardship Grant**

7.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the application for the Open Space Stewardship Grant. She noted that they are looking for 80 hours of volunteer work. Sandra McNicol stated that there was talk about restoring a field at the Horseshoe Bend Park.

There was a discussion regarding what they would like to put the grant towards and who would be the best person to speak to, as far as, what type of plants to consider planting.

Sandra McNicol suggested they focus on the butterflies and plant things that would be good for them. Debbie Kratzer noted that the Goose Berry is not going to be available until the seeds are germinated to start the plant. She noted there are species of Goose Berries that can be obtained from a catalog, but they cannot be shipped to New Jersey. She noted that there are a lot of other plants that are good for the butterflies.

The Commission expressed that they would like to make the most of the grant. Everyone volunteered to help when the time comes to plant.

The Commission all agreed to apply for the grant.

### **Horseshoe Bend Park – Update**

Debbie Kratzer noted that she attended the last Township Committee meeting to let them know that the Environmental Commission and the Open Space Committee of Kingwood Township request that the North Jersey Butterfly Club create a plan to manage the habitats, particularly the fields at the Horseshoe Bend Preserve. She noted that this is for butterflies and other pollinating insects, and rare birds, which would be compatible with existing uses, such as, dog related activities, equestrian events and farming, primarily haying. She explained that a subcommittee has been formed to work on the management plan who will consist of herself, Sandra McNicol, Cynthia Niciecki, Richard Dodds, and Jack MacConnell.

### **(11b). Conservation Cover for Pollinators Guide**

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

### **Site Plan Review**

#### **(12). Application for Site Plan Approval – Block 15, Lot 8.01**

Sandra McNicol noted that this is still being decided what this will be used for and if they will need a different site review. Debbie Kratzer noted that there are no plans for building and they just needed to go to the Planning Board for approval of change use of the property.

### **Open Space**

**Sandy McNicol – Update on Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting of February 4, 2014**

8.

Sandra McNicol noted that the Open Space and Ag Committees would like to come up with something to thank Kate Buttolph for all the help she gave the township through the Hunterdon Land Trust preserving property.

She explained that the township was considering adopting a resolution in honor to Kate Buttolph and also giving her a beautiful picture of the Horseshoe Bend Park framed in remembrance of Kingwood Township.

**Adjournment**

It was moved by Gail Ashley, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:31PM. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller  
Secretary