

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REORGANIZATION AND REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 20, 2015
7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Reorganization Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:33P.M. Secretary Cynthia Keller 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 Courier News on January 17, 2015, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Express Times, and the Hunterdon County Democrat on January 15, 2015. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on January 15, 2015.

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
Sandra McNicol
David Posey
Cynthia Niciecki
Diana Haywood
Timothy Cahalin
Gail Ashley 7:40pm

Absent

Willard Reasoner
Joe Zgurzynski

Nomination for Chairperson

It was moved by Diana Haywood, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to nominate **Debbie Kratzer** Chairwoman for the Environmental Commission for 2015.

It was moved by Diana Haywood, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to close the nomination for Chairperson.

3.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to approve the local newspapers (Hunterdon County Democrat and Courier News) for advertisements for the Environmental Commission.

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

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

Mr. Rinkens, Barbertown Idell Road – Explained that he and his wife would like to get involved with the Citizen’s for the pipeline subcommittee. He noted that he was present to sit in on the meeting to listen to the Environmental Commission and information regarding the pipeline.

Minutes

(1). Approval of December 16, 2014 Environmental Commission Regular Minutes

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by David Posey and carried to approve the December 16, 2014 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.

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

Correspondence

(2). 2015 ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grants for Environmental Commissions

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that this is the grant for \$1,500. It was noted that the Commission is involved with several other projects at this time, but will look at this opportunity next year.

Notice of upcoming meetings/workshops:

“Safety Aspects of the New Interstate Pipeline in Princeton” – January 22, 2015; 435 Nassau Street, Princeton at The Jewish Center (this is about Transco pipeline, but might be of interest)

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the upcoming meeting.

4.

FERC Public Scoping Meeting – January 27, 2015 6:00 PM College of New Jersey, 2000 Pennington Road, Ewing, NJ 08628

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the upcoming meeting. She noted that she will be attending this meeting to speak. She stated that anyone can go to support. She explained that anyone can submit comments also.

(3). Sustaining Our Way of Life – Wednesday, January 28, 2015 from 10am – 3pm at the Sussex County Fairgrounds

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Third Annual New Jersey Invasive Species Conference – Wednesday, April 1, 2015

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Recycling News and Update

Update from Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol

Sandra McNicol explained that the lean-to was started and is being constructed. She noted that the area is it now three quarters closed. She feels that the dumpsters are incredibly full every month. She explained that there will have to be a cleanup to get it under control.

Reports

Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District

(4). Notice from the Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District – Re: Block 28, Lot 10.03

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

New Business

(5). ANJEC 2015 Membership Dues

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to approve to renew the ANJEC dues for the Environmental Commission Members for 2015 in the amount of \$290.00 for the first 7 members, and an addition \$75.00 for three additional members to approve the total amount of \$365.00.

5.

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

Annual Report for 2014 - (next month)

(6). 2015 EC Objectives (draft)

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that this will be discussed at next month's meeting in February.

Old Business

N/A

Action Items:

Sustainable Jersey – Update

Timothy Cahalin noted that there is no update at this time.

MEL – Update

(7). MEL – Spill Clean-Up Investigation Report – Gail Ashley

Gail Ashley explained that she sent MEL a letter requesting all the quarterly reports for 2014, but noted that the township has not received them yet. She reviewed the investigation report from the spill that recently happened in the summer of 2014.

PennEast Pipeline

(8). Letter to NJWSA from EC

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She stated that she has not heard from them in response to her letter as of this date.

(9). Comments to FERC from EC (draft)

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that she attended several of the pipeline meetings. She noted that most of the people who attended were opposed to the pipeline. She noted that there are regulations that the PennEast Pipeline needs to follow.

The Commission Members discussed the letter to FERC prepared by Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer.

7.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the memo she prepared to the Township Committee. They all agreed that the draft memo was fine to send to the Township Committee.

Tim Cahalin suggested that the Environmental Commission look specifically at what the township would like to research regarding the PennEast Pipeline, whether it be water or something specific, especially when it relates to FERC in terms of water and wetlands. He feels that we are losing a lot of wetlands, which is approximately 81 acres. He feels we need to talk about specific measures.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the new route that has been planned for the PennEast Pipeline. Debbie Kratzer noted that she will send the new map and link to everyone.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to approve to send the prepared memo by Debbie Kratzer from the Environmental Commission to the Township Committee recommending funds for environmental studies related to the proposed PennEast Pipeline route.

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

Horseshoe Bend Park – Update

(10). Letter Re: Holden Grant from Washington Crossing Audubon

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that the Washington Crossing Audubon Society has agreed to fund the amount of \$3,420.00 to support the Horseshoe Bend Park Pollinator Meadow Project for the Hold Grant.

The Commissioners all expressed how happy they were that the township received the grant for this project and congratulated Debbie Kratzer and Sandra McNicol for their work on the application. Sandra McNicol and Debbie Kratzer explained some of the plans they have for the project.

There was a brief discussion on how to get rid of invasive species. Mr. Rinkens who was present in the audience gave the Commission a few ideas that he and his wife use on their farm.

Sandra McNicol suggested that Mr. Rinkens and his wife come to a future meeting to talk about what they do and share it with the Commission.

8.

Kingwood Park - Update

N/A

Site Plan Review

N/A

Open Space

Sandra McNicol – Update on Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting of January 6, 2015.

Sandra McNicol explained that there is nothing new to report at this time.

Adjournment

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:38PM. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller
Secretary