

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 28, 2015
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 January 29th, 2015, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Express Times on January 21, 2015. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on January 21, 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
Diana Haywood
Sandra McNicol
David Posey
Lois Voronin
Timothy Cahalin

Absent

Cynthia Niciecki
Willard Reasoner
Joe Zgurzynski
Gail Ashley

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

No comments from the public.

Minutes

(1). Approval of March 24, 2015 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Diana Haywood and carried to approve the March 24, 2015 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.

Comments or Corrections:

2.

Correction Page#3 – Second paragraph – Third sentence (AP) should be replaced with (app).

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

Correspondence

(2). Letter from ANJEC – Re: Thank you for Renewing Membership for 2015

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the thank you letter for renewing the membership for 2015. She noted that ANJEC has a lot of information on their website along with many services and documents that are very informative.

(3). 2015 NJ Tree Recovery Pickup Locations

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the 2015 tree recovery pickup locations.

(4). Info from Frenchtown Borough Environmental Commission Chairman

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed information received from Chairman, Joel Boriek of the Environmental Commission from Frenchtown Borough. She noted he wanted to let us know of a siting of a bald eagle between Frenchtown Borough and Alexandria Township along the creek.

(4a). FYI – Hunterdon County’s Bike to Work Month

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Notice of upcoming meetings/workshops:

(5). Hunterdon Land Trust Calling All Volunteers – Sunday, May 3rd for An Invasive Removal at HLT’s Lockatong Creek Recreation Area

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Recycling News and Update

Update from Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol

Recycling Coordinator, Sandra McNicol explained that the word has been sent out that there is Clean Community Funds available to be used and that organizations are starting to contact her regarding road clean up. The Delaware Valley Athletic Association contacted her and asked if they could do a clean-up on Oak Grove Road. She stated that they cleaned up the entire road on Saturday, April 25, 2015.

3.

They filled 4 large garbage bags and collected many other items such as tires and metal structures, which they brought back to the municipal building parking lot to be picked up by the Township Department of Public Works.

She explained that it went very well and also mentioned that she posted it on the Kingwood Facebook page. She noted they will be having another clean-up on Thatcher Road in the near future. She explained that she is working on the tonnage grant and that the county sent letters to all the businesses in the area this year. She stated that she received several recycling tonnage reports from businesses that she has never received before.

Sandra McNicol explained that seven dumpster were switched this month. She stated that her recycling sheet of information went out to the public in the annual mailing. Everyone thanked Sandy for the great job she did on the annual recycling information sheet.

DVAA Boys Litter Clean – Up Day Photo

Recycling Coordinator, Sandra McNicol showed the Commissioners the picture of the boys cleaning up along Oak Grove Road over the projector.

Reports

(6). Freshwater Wetlands General Permit Appl. Re: Replace of Co Bridge K-110 & K-111 County Rt. 519 Over Lockatong Creek

The Commission reviewed the application for the replacement of the bridges. David Posey noted that he read about this project in the Democrat and stated it would not be completed until the year 2016.

(7). E-Mail from Larry Granite from the EPA – Re: DeRewal Chemical Co. Superfund Site

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the e-mail from Larry Granite and gave a bit of history of the DeRewal Site along Route 29.

(8). Preparation for a Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit Appl. Rt 29 Project for NJDOT

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District

(9). HCSCD – Letter of Cert. – Kingwood Twp. School Block 20, Lot 4

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer briefly reviewed.

New Business

4.

(10). Annual Report for 2014

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that she will have this for next month.

Old Business

N/A

Action Items:

Sustainable Jersey – Update

Schedule Meeting with Nathan Charron – HART – Training for Sustainable

It was discussed that Secretary Keller will be in contact with Nathan Charron from HART to meet with the Sustainable Jersey Team. It was suggested that they meet on a Friday evening, possibly the tentative date of, May 22nd at 7:00P.M. at the municipal building.

Diana Haywood suggested that an agenda of what they want to talk about be constructed. She feels that it would be more productive if they have an agenda of information to review with Nathan Charron. Timothy Cahalin noted he has the information saved to share with everyone when the Sustainable Team meets with Nathan Charron.

MEL – Update

Gail Ashley was not present this evening to give an update.

On Going Well Water Resource Inventory

Nothing to report at this time from Anthony Hauck.

PennEast Pipeline:

(11). Resource Report 3: Fisheries, Vegetation and Wildlife

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that PennEast has submitted all of the resource reports. She explained that she included in everyone's packages resource report #3, which consists of the Fisheries, Vegetation and Wildlife and Resource Report.

(12). Resource Report 8: Land Use, Recreation and Aesthetics

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the resource report #8 Land Use, Recreation and Aesthetics. She explained that there were a lot of other links to download regarding water quality. She noted that these will be on the Kingwood Township website for those that would like to read them.

(13). PennEast's Response to Scoping Comments

The Commission Members reviewed.

5.

(14). Brochure from FERC – Project Update for the PennEast Pipeline Project April 2015

The Commission Members reviewed the brochure. They discussed working on the comments to be sent to FERC. Debbie Kratzer noted that there will be a walk in Lambertville to protest the Pipeline coming here.

(14a). Updated PennEast Pipeline Maps – To be Reviewed on Projector

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer briefly reviewed the updated maps from PennEast. She explained that the preferred location is to be constructed through Delaware Township, but that it will be going through Kingwood Township.

Sandra McNicol suggested that everyone take a section and specific areas in the township to research the topics of concern. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that she only downloaded two of the links for the meeting, but will find additional links and send them to each person. She stated that this may give the Environmental Commission a feel for where there are areas that need to be reviewed, so they can be prepared to write any comments they may have. She noted that the Environmental Impact Statement should be done in a few weeks, and then the Environmental Commission only has 45 days to comment.

Diana Haywood explained that she attended one of the meetings PennEast had for the residents. She gave a brief review of what they talked about and how they seem to be more than willing to do what the residents would like on their property.

Horseshoe Bend Park – Update

Pollinator Meadow Project – Update

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that they are very excited about starting the pollinator meadow project at the Horseshoe Bend Park. She explained that they are going to till the ground to plant the seeds. She explained the type of flowers they will be planting and that the area will be approximately two acres in size. Jack MacConnell will be helping with getting the ground ready for planting.

Kingwood Park - Update

(15). http://www.nj.com/hunterdon-county-democrat/index.ssf/2015/04/kingwood_township_volunteers_plant_trees_to_improv.html

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer briefly reviewed the article that was in the Hunterdon Democrat.

(15a). 2015 Kingwood Park Planting Flyer

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed and reminded everyone about the information Bob O'Neil came and talked about a few weeks ago.

6.

She noted that the planting went very well. Sandra McNicol stated that it was fun and that it only took about an hour and a half to plant.

Site Plan Review

(16). Block 6, Lot 21 (1121 State Route 12) Delaware River Tubing

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer and the Commission Members reviewed the site plan for block 6, lot 21. She explained an Ordinance was adopted for the Environmental Impact Assessment, and she stated that this applicant is the first one that has been done. She explained that one of the reasons they wrote the ordinance is to look to see if there are any endangered species on the property. She explained that they will need to go to the Board of Adjustment for a variance and approval for this request, because this is not an approved use for that property. She noted that there are no wetlands on the site, no flood plains and no steep slopes. She explained that they are not planning on using any water on the site, just a port-a-john.

The Commission Members reviewed the site plan map of the plans the business has for that site. The Commission feels that there are no real environmental concerns except idling in the parking lot, which would be one of the concerns. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that if anyone has any other concerns to write their comments to the Board of Adjustment before the next hearing on May 13, 2015.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that she will be writing up a brief letter to the Board of Adjustment requesting they review the Environmental Commissions suggestions that they talked about this evening and comments before making any decisions.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to approve Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer to write a letter of recommendation and comments to the Board of Adjustment from the Environmental Commission for their consideration on their decision for this site plan.

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

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to amend the motion and approve to include recommending that the Board of Adjustment wait for the Landscape Data before giving an approval for this site plan.

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

7.

Open Space

Sandy McNicol – Update on Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting of April 7, 2015.

Sandy McNicol, Chairwoman of the Open Space Committee noted that there was not much going on at this time. There was a brief discussion of the properties preserved recently in the township.

Adjournment

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:15PM. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller
Secretary