

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 27, 2016
7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:40P.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 4, 2016, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Express Times on January 27, 2016. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on January 27, 2016.

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

Absent

Gail Ashley
Willard Reasoner
Timothy Cahalin
Joe Zgurzynski

Public Comments/Privilege of the Floor

FYI – Steve Spayd from the NJDEP will Be Coming Next Month to Speak about Arsenic

Minutes

(1). Approval of August 23, 2016 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by David Posey and carried to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2016 Environmental Commission Regular meeting with the following correction:

2.

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

Correspondence

N/A

Notice of upcoming meetings/workshops: Reminder of Dates

Recycling News and Update

Update from Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol

(2). Copy of Reports – Recycling Tonnage Grant for 2015

Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol gave an update on the recycling center. Sandra McNicol gave a review of the Recycling Tonnage Grant for 2015. She reviewed the numbers for the county, which was a lower amount than last year.

Sandra McNicol noted how Delaware Township has adopted an ordinance regarding medal collectors, which she will look into this further to get more information.

Sandra McNicol noted that she opened up the recycling center the beginning of September on the first Saturday. She noted that the township has run out of funds at this time of the year for the dumpsters. She is still thinking of cutting the amount of days the recycling center to be open. She explained that there was a road cleanup this past Saturday, September 24th, 2016, which was by the “All Sports Group from Del Val School”. They parked at the Kingwood Tavern, and they worked on Barbertown Point Breeze Road to Thatcher Road onto Muddy Run Road. She split them up into two groups. She stated that this was a very good cleanup.

Reports

(3). Notice from the NJDEP – Unregulated Heating Oil Tank Program – Block 41, Lot 15.02
550 Gallon #2 Heating Oil Underground Storage Tank System

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(4). Copy of Letter to Land Owner – Block 41, Lot 15 – From Curren Environmental, Inc. Re: Response
Action Outcome – AOC 1-500 Gallon UST Containing Lead

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District

New Business

(5). Environmental Commission – Annual Report Draft

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

3.

Old Business

Update on Chris Citgo

David Posey reported that a representative from their Environmental Consulting Company has filed notice with the Department notifying them that they are going to be applying for a (CEA), Classified Exception Area, which means they are cleaning up contamination from the Citgo station. They put in monitoring wells on that property, which they check quarterly. He noted that the levels have come down considerably by themselves without any pumping or treating, which is called natural attenuation. They are expecting to do several rounds of sampling to control them, and then it can be filed with the department. In the interim there should be a deed restriction so there are no new wells put in the vicinity of the Citgo. He explained that they notify the Township Clerk to let the township know where they are at this time.

Everyone thanked David Posey for looking into this property.

(6). Water Testing Discount Program – September 17th – October 28th, 2016

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer and Secretary Keller reviewed the water testing program. Secretary Keller noted that we will have a better idea how many people signed up for the water testing at the October meeting. It was noted that Raritan Headwaters did a great job setting the discount program up for Community Day, the municipal building and for the public.

(7). Septic Cleaning Discount Program – Castle Septic - September 17th – September 23rd

Secretary Keller noted speaking to owners of Castle Septic who were willing to set the program up where the homeowner call themselves to have their septic tanks cleaned out. The Environmental Commission requested that Castle Septic be contacted to find out approximately how many people took advantage of the program.

(8). Copy of Letter to Castle Septic Awarding the Discount Septic Cleaning Program

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Action Items:

Sustainable Jersey – Kingwood Green Team Update

Timothy Cahalin was not present at the meeting this evening.

MEL – Update

Update from Gail Ashley

Gail Ashley was not present this evening.

Review - Letter and Petition to Property Owners Surrounding MEL

Chairman David Posey reviewed a draft letter he prepared. The Environmental Commission all agreed the letter to the property owners sounded very good. David Posey would like to hear Gail Ashley's opinion on the draft letter before sending this out to the residents surrounding MEL.

4.

David Posey will touch base with both Gail Ashley and Timothy Cahalin to obtain their opinion and any additional information.

Sustainable Aquaculture Systems, Inc.

Updates

There was a brief discussion regarding where things are at with Sustainable Aquaculture Systems, Inc. and Franklin Township.

The Environmental Commission would like to learn more from Timothy Cahalin regarding the radio activity in the ground water that is located near MEL, which they feel may affect Sustainable Aquaculture Systems Inc. and their business. The Commission Members noted they would like to be able to ask them questions regarding whether they are aware of this problem along with the amount of salt that has been found in the water from MEL.

Slacktown Well

(9). E-Mail Update Re: Update on Slacktown Road Monitoring Well

(10). E-Mail Update Re: Update as of 9-1-2016 Re: Slacktown Road Monitoring Well

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the e-mails regarding the update on the Slacktown Road Monitoring Wells. Secretary Keller explained that it has been completed and the wells have been closed up.

PennEast Pipeline: - Update

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that she wrote comments to FERC regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. She noted that the deadline was September 12th, 2016. She will be sending everyone copies. She explained that the Township hired Banisch Associates in cooperation with Delaware Twp. and Hopewell Twp., which she will e-mail everyone the information from Banisch Associates who is working on consulting services for the township regarding the PennEast Pipeline. Debbie Kratzer reviewed some of the comments sent to FERC from some of the businesses in the area. There was a brief discussion on the ads the PennEast Pipeline is sending out to all the residents and businesses, which is false information.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer would like a cover letter sent to the local Legislatures to accompany the letter from the Mayor.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that the only change in their route in the Kingwood area is near Kingwood Locktown and Featherbed Road.

It was noted that on September 8th there was another rally across the river against the pipeline.

Horseshoe Bend Park – Update

Pollinator Meadow Project – Update

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that they need to finish up with a sign to be put up at the Pollinator Meadow. Sandra McNicol will be working on the sign. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that she is not sure how the plants are doing at this time with the drought this summer.

5.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that the long tail salamander was found at the copper creek, which has never been found there before.

Site Plan Review

(11). Application for Variance – BOA – Block 51, Lot 23 – 123 Byram Lane

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed Block 51, Lot 23, which is the property before the Board of Adjustment. Secretary Keller noted that this application has been deemed complete. The Board will continue reviewing this application and request for a variance next month. The Environmental Commission reviewed the site plan of the proposed construction.

It was suggested to send the engineer questions regarding the letter of interpretation, the well, septic, and all of the variances requested along with several other concerns the Environmental Commission may have about the construction. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer will be sending a memo to the Township Engineer asking a few questions as discussed.

Open Space

Sandy McNicol – Update Report - Open Space and Agricultural Meeting of September 6, 2016

Sandy McNicol reviewed the meeting of September 6, 2016 of the Open Space and Ag. She noted that the Agricultural Committee met on that evening and that not too much is going on at this time. She noted that one of the Agricultural members had to resign due to preserving her property.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer stated that she will be attending the 2016 Environmental Congress Registration on Friday, September 30th from 9:00am – 4:30pm at the Conference Center at Mercer County College in West Windsor, and she will be giving a speech on site plans.

It was noted that there is a drought water watch still in affect at this time.

Adjournment

It was moved by Cynthia Niciecki, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:35P.M. All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller, Secretary
Environmental Commission