

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REORGANIZATION AND REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 26, 2016
7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Reorganization Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:40P.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 Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News on December 24, 2015, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Express Times on December 16, 2015. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on December 16, 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
Diana Haywood
Willard Reasoner

Absent

Gail Ashley
Timothy Cahalin
Joe Zgurzynski
Cynthia Niciecki

Reorganize

Nomination for Chairperson

It was moved by Lois Voronin, seconded by David Posey and carried to nominate **Debbie Kratzer** Chairwoman for the Environmental Commission for 2016.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Willard Reasoner and carried to close the nomination for Chairperson.

Roll Call Vote:

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

2.

Nomination for Vice Chairperson

It was moved by Lois Voronin, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to nominate **David Posey**, Vice Chairman for the Environmental Commission for 2015.

It was moved by Willard Reasoner, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to close the nomination for Vice Chairperson.

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

Motion and Approval of Scheduled Meeting Dates for 2016

January 26, 2016	June 28, 2016	November 15, 2016
February 23, 2016	July 26, 2016	December 13, 2016
March 22, 2016	August 23, 2016	
April 26, 2016	September 27, 2016	
May 24, 2016	October 25, 2016	

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by David Posey and carried to approve scheduled meeting dates for the Environmental Commission for 2016.

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

Motion and approval of local newspapers (Hunterdon County Democrat and Courier News) for advertisements

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Lois Voronin 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, Reasoner
 Nay - None
 Abstain - None
 Absent - Cahalin, Ashley, Niciecki

3.

Minutes

(1). Approval of December 15, 2015 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

The Commission reviewed a few corrections that were previously made before the meeting.

It was moved by Willard Reasoner, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to approve the December 15, 2015 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.

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

Correspondence

N/A

Notice of upcoming meetings/workshops:

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the upcoming workshops for the upcoming months. She stated that if anyone is interested in attending the workshops she will send them the information.

(2). ANJEC – Conferences and Workshops – Fundamentals for Effective EC – March 5,12,19

(3). 20th Annual NJ Land Conservation Rally- March 18 Wyndham Garden Hotel, Trenton
8am-6pm <http://njconservation.org/conservationrally.htm>

NJ Invasive Species Conference - April 6 Duke Farms, Hillsborough 9am-3 pm
<http://njisst.org/2016Conference.htm>

Native Plant Society of New Jersey, Hunterdon Chapter - Upcoming Meetings March 3,
April 27 and May 26

Recycling News and Update

Update from Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol

Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol noted that the township still has not received the tonnage grant for recycling from the State. She noted that the Department of Public Works have been calling to have the bins emptied every Friday. She feels that the cost is beginning to get very high.

(4). Electronics Collection Discontinued Immediately – December 28, 2015

4.

Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol noted that the electronics have been stopped at the Recycling Center. She explained the reasons for the discontinued electronics collection at the Recycling Center.

The Township received a letter from New Tech explaining that they would have to start charging approximately \$350.00 per container pickup, plus a 38 cents a pound charge for the poundage inside the dumpster. She explained that the township was not paying to collect electronics and to get rid of them. She explained how she made arrangements for the container to be picked up and for the information to be put on the website to inform everyone this was no longer going to be continued.

Sandra McNicol noted that it would need to come out of the tonnage grant if we were to start up the electronic collection again. She suggested that maybe there will be a one time date scheduled to drop off the electronics and also for tires at the DPW in the future. She noted that she has set up a line item to help cover the costs at the Recycling Depot.

Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol contacted the County requesting they add additional days for electronic and hazardous waste collection to their yearly calendar.

Everyone thanked Sandra McNicol for her recycling report.

(5). Article from the Sunday, January 3, 2016 Hunterdon Democrat – Are America’s Recycling Programs Too Costly and Ineffectual? Should We Scrap Them? “It’s Not Worth the Burden

Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol briefly reviewed the article.

(6). Article - “For the Sake of Wisdom and Other Wildlife, Reduce and Recycle Plastic

Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol briefly reviewed the article.

(7). Article - “Let’s Do More Not Less

Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol briefly reviewed the article.

Reports

(8). Notice from the NJDEP -Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge – Stompf Tavern Rd. Depart. Bridge – Route 12 over the Nishisakawick Creek

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(9). Public Notice – Request for NJDEP Freshwater Wetlands Permit#1 Re: HC Engineers

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

5.

(10). Notice from the NJDEP – Re: Sustainable Aquaculture Systems, Inc. – Decision on Permit

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that Sustainable Aquaculture Systems Inc. applied to the NJDEP to find out about the streams on the property. She agreed with what the NJDEP stated about the fact that there are no streams on the property.

(11). Public Notice – Re: Sustainable Aquaculture Systems, Inc. Appl. For an Aquaculture Facility

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. The Environmental Commission asked Secretary Keller to find out if the hearing happened on January 13th, 2016, and if there will be a continuation of the hearing. Sandra McNicol noted that she would like to see someone attend the meeting to find out where they are at this time.

(12). Copy of Letter to Sustainable Aquaculture Systems Inc. Re – Block 49, Lots 21 and 23

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed and explained that they wanted to update their Wastwater Management Plan. There was a discussion regarding the comments and how the Environmental Commission sent them to the Township Clerk to be sent to the NJDEP, and that they had a lot of concerns and did not support the plan. There was a question as to why they did not receive the township's Environmental Commission's comments. Secretary Keller to look into this further and get back to the Commission Members.

Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District

(13). Notice from the Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District – Re: Block 20, Lot 4

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

New Business

(14). ANJEC – 2016 Renew of Membership – Approve to Renew

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to agree to renew the 2016 ANJEC Membership for the Environmental Commission.

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

(15). NJDEP – Radon Action Partnership Packet

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that she put the Radon information on the website.

(16). Resolution No. 2015 – 119 Radon Action Month Adopted by Twp. Comm.

6.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that she also put this resolution on the website.

- (17). Free Tree Seedlings 2,000 Free Tree Seedlings – Tree Recovery Campaign – Discuss and Recommend to Twp. Committee to Approve If Environmental Chooses to Do the Campaign

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed and asked the Environmental Commission if they would be interested in this campaign. The Commissioners all agreed and decided that they would not be interested this year.

- (18). NJDEP – Proposed Amendments to the FFY2016 Priority System Intended Use Plan, And Project Priority List

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

- (19). Copy of Permit from NJDEP – For the New Jersey Water Supply Authority

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the copy of the permit from the NJDEP.

- (20). ANJEC – 2016 Open Space Stewardship Grants for Environmental Commissions

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She feels that the Environmental Commission has enough to work on at this time.

- (21). Hunterdon County Open Space Plan, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Plan

Sandra McNicol explained that many people went to the Hunterdon County Open Space Meeting. She gave a brief review of what the new plan will include.

Black Swallowtail designated Official State Butterfly

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed and noted that the Black Swallowtail Butterfly has been designated the official state's butterfly for New Jersey.

Old Business

- (22). Budget Account Report for Environmental Commission from C.F.O.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

ACR249/SCR180 Determines that DEP's proposal to revise Flood Hazard Area Control Act Rules, Coastal Zone Management Rules, and Stormwater Management Rules is inconsistent with legislative intent.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

7.

Action Items:

Sustainable Jersey – Kingwood Green Team Update

Willard Reasoner explained that he and Diana Haywood attended a group meeting with surrounding townships at a Hunterdon County Hub kick off meeting, which included Holland Township, Frenchtown Borough, Milford Borough, Alexandria Township and Kingwood Township. He explained they all came together to talk about how they can all work together on Sustainable Jersey, and at the same time obtain points for their townships. He noted that they will form a subcommittee and they will agree and come up with a name of their organization. He noted that they talked about having additional meetings. He reviewed some of the projects that they discussed, which included working with a farmers market and a green film festival. He explained that Alexandria will no longer have a community day, but would like to have what they would call a Green Fair and would like to have all the townships work together on it to come together to educate the public at one fair. He noted that this was their first meeting and it was very successful and everyone came together.

Willard Reasoner noted that Nathan Charron from Hart of Hunterdon County and a few others from Sustainable Jersey were all there and that they explained a lot of material. He stated they were very helpful to everyone and that they are trying to get the townships to work together. They also talked about the grants that are available, and some being very substantial. He noted that they discussed the idea of one township being in charge of applying for the Hub. Diana Haywood feels that they all agreed this would be a better way to get these projects completed. They would also like to encourage the schools to do it on their own. Willard Reasoner stated that he is very interested in being involved. He explained that they may even try to meet through zoom.

(23). Fracking Ordinance – Update of December 28, 2015 Amendments

Lois Voronin noted the ordinance was sent to the Township Committee. Diana Haywood explained the Township Committee reviewed the ordinance and requested that this ordinance be sent to the surrounding townships for their information. There was a discussion regarding sending out a cover letter with the ordinance. There was wording suggested that should go into a cover letter along with the ordinance. The Commission Members suggested we ask those townships if they have adopted an ordinance similar to our draft ordinance, and if they did not what would their feelings be regarding adopting an ordinance to ban fracking. It was also recommended to send the ordinance to the township's Board of Health to ask if they are in support of the updated ordinance.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that Timothy Cahalin could not make the meeting this evening, but sent his thoughts on the ordinance. She explained that he had a comment, which asked, if there was some way it could be made that it applies to not fracking for natural gas, but anything else. There was a lengthy discussion regarding fracking for water and other natural resources. The Commission Members agreed that there cannot be a ban for all types of fracking, but very concerned with all the chemicals that are involved.

8.

There was a question if the township attorney has looked at this ordinance yet. The Commission felt that maybe the attorney should review the ordinance first to see if it should be more or less specific. Diana Haywood noted that she will bring this up at the next township meeting and ask the township attorney to review it as recommended by the Environmental Commission.

MEL – Update

Update from Gail Ashley

Gail Ashley was not present at the meeting, but she provided the following information for everyone to review:

The Environmental Commission decided that it would be best to table the discussion on these items until next month.

- (24). Salt Plume Supplement Remedial Investigation Report and Proposal for Exception Classification Area
- (25). Map of Properties MEL Provided Bottled Water
- (26). Map of MEL Monitoring Wells
- (27). Ground Water Contours Deep Wells List Near MEL

PennEast Pipeline: - Update

(28). Project Update for the PennEast Pipeline Project – December 2015

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the update from the PennEast Pipeline. She noted that the Pipeline has made offers to the landowners recently. She reviewed what happened at a meeting sponsored by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. She explained that when the Environmental Impact for the Pipeline comes out, she will need a lot of help reviewing it. She reviewed a tentative timeline of dates of when approvals will be considered.

Current Map of the PennEast Pipeline

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed an updated map of the PennEast Pipeline over the overhead projector. She explained where the prior route went and where it has been moved to the current route. She noted how many times the route was changed and how it could be changed at any time even when they are working on it.

Lois Voronin noted that ANJEC sends out a newsletter and there was an article regarding a underground storage tank that is leaking in California that they are unable to stop it from leaking.

(29). N.J.C.F. – Re: Landowners and Community Forums – Update on Meeting

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She explained this is an update from the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, which was sent to everyone announcing the two upcoming landowner and community forums that will be held in January.

9.

The first meeting is scheduled on January 20th, 2016 at 7:00P.M. at the Kingwood Twp. Municipal Bldg. and the second meeting will be held on January 21, 2016 at 7:00P.M. at the Hopewell Township Bldg. in Titusville, NJ.

(30). HALT (Homeowners Against Land Taking) PennEast group formed

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. This is for the homeowners to show their voice.

Horseshoe Bend Park – Update

Pollinator Meadow Project - Update

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed and stated they are working on finalizing the images for the sign.

Site Plan Review

There was a brief discussion on the Tumble Partnership. Sandra McNicol who is a member on the township's Planning Board, noted they have downsized from 7 lots to 4 lots. Diana Haywood noted they are looking for waivers, as they have changed the original plans. There was a discussion on how some of the lots had wetlands.

Open Space

Sandra McNicol – Update on Open Space and Agricultural Meeting of January 5, 2016

Sandra McNicol noted that the Church property has been purchased and preserved in December 2015.

Public Comments/Privilege of the Floor

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

It was moved by Willard Reasoner, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:45P.M. **All Voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller,
Secretary