

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 22, 2016
7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:34P.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 28, 2016. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on January 28, 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
David Posey
Diana Haywood
Sandra McNicol
Cynthia Niciecki
Lois Voronin
Gail Ashley
Timothy Cahalin**

Absent

**Willard Reasoner
Joe Zgurzynski**

Public Comments/Privilege of the Floor

Michael Gross – Attorney for the Sustainable Aquaculture Systems Present to Speak to EC

Representatives Mike Rose, Dr. G. Rochovich and Attorney Michael Gross were present to speak to the Environmental Commission regarding the Sustainable Aquaculture Systems process and how it works. Attorney, Michael Gross said that this is a fully sustainable system that incorporates all phases of fish cultivation and hydroponic production of vegetables. Water treatment technologies provide for the continuous purification and reuse of fish culture water. A limited volume of wastewater is environmentally treated with an on-site water mitigation system.

2.

The wastes produced by the SASI process are comprised of organic materials. He said that SASI would generate none of the wastes common to industrial or traditional agricultural applications, such as herbicides, pesticides, inorganic fertilizers, heavy metals, organophosphates, dioxin, and other harmful pollutants. He said that SASI would utilize only sustainable and environmentally friendly technologies. He said they would rely on a clean water source and constant filtration to grow fish from the hatchery stage through to full grown fish for wholesale and retail sales. The fish production water would then be used to hydroponically grow vegetables.

Dr. G. Rochovich noted that the Franklin/Kingwood facility would produce approximately 500,000 pounds of fish and 1,200,000 pounds of vegetables a year without the use of fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides. He said SASI would use a maximum of 50,000 gallons per day of water drawn from the underlying aquifer. This amount is less than the amount requiring a NJDEP water diversion permit. He claimed that the DEP has determined that any withdrawal of water below 100,000 gallons per day will not have an adverse impact on adjacent wells or the water aquifer. He noted that approximately 15,000 – 20,000 gallons of the water will be returned to the aquifer with much of the rest used to grow vegetables. He said this amount of water is less than what a conventional farmer uses to grow comparable amounts of vegetables.

Attorney Michael Gross noted that any processed water discharge will be regulated through a NJDEP discharge permit. It will establish limits on various nutrients and SASI will monitor and test the water quality as required by the NJDEP. They explained that they will be working with the NJDEP regarding the water and how much they will be using. He explained that their Hydrogeologist is Dr. Thomas Dwyer, and that he will be attending the Township Committee meeting in April. The facility will also house a research and development component and administrative offices.

Dr. G. Rochovich gave a demonstration of how the system will work. They provided posters and he explained how the water will be used and explained that it is all filtered through many steps and then the water is recharged and then discharged into the ground. He explained how they will be monitoring the nearby wells to keep an eye to make sure they are not affected.

Attorney Michael Gross stated that they are present this evening to take any questions and try to answer them, and if they cannot answer them tonight they will come back and have the answers for the Commission. He noted that they will be coming to speak to the Township Committee in April.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer recommended they supply a copy of their Hydrogeologist report so the township's Hydrogeologist can review the report before they meet with the Kingwood Township Committee. She explained the issues Kingwood Township has with water and the concerns of how much water they will be withdrawing from the ground.

Gail Ashley commented by stating she is a Geologist, Lois Voronin is a hydrogeologist and Debbie Kratzer is a Biologist. She explained about the high levels of arsenic in the water in the township.

3.

She wanted to know if Franklin Township has seen the Sustainable Aquaculture Systems hydrogeologist's report. It was suggested that Secretary Keller contact Franklin Twp. to find out if they have seen SASI report.

Lois Voronin commented and feels that this will decrease the water in the wells considerably. She requested information regarding other facilities that are similar to this company that do not use chemicals for their system. They will e-mail the information to the secretary to forward to Lois Voronin.

Sandra McNicol commented on the concern of water, and how the Penn East Pipeline is coming through the township who will be using a lot of water with possible fracking to construct the line. She asked what they would do if there was a fish fungus in the system. Dr. G. Rochovich commented that they do not see this happening.

Timothy Cahalin commented and asked several questions regarding the water testing. He asked about their filtration system, and if they tested for any radioactivity in the water.

David Posey commented his concern regarding the wells down the road who will be having a possible shortage.

The Commission thanked the representatives from the Sustainable Aquaculture Systems for coming to speak to them and would like to find out more information about the system.

Minutes

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

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2016 Environmental Commission meeting.

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

Correspondence

(2). News Article from NJSPOTLIGHT – State DEP Withdraws Rule Changes, Avoids Clash with Lawmakers

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that the NJDEP has decided to revise the rules and that this will give the Environmental Commission a chance to comment again. She noted that these rule changes have not yet taken effect.

4.

(3). Letter from ANJEC to Environmental Commission – Thank you for Renewing Membership

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the thank you letter from ANJEC. She explained the list of additional items they offer to the members with the membership.

Notice of upcoming meetings/workshops: Reminder of Dates

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer announced the following meetings and workshops:

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

(4). 2016 Kingwood Twp. Stream Bank Clean-Up and Native Species Planting – April 16, 2016

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

Sandra McNicol noted that the second week of April on the 9th will be the first Clean-Up Program date to bring items to the Department of Public Works for the season. She explained that the residents can purchase a permit during office hours at the municipal building. The Clean Up Day begins at 9:00A.M. until 12:00noon. She noted that the permits are available at the township building until the Friday before the Clean-Up day.

Sandra McNicol also noted that the cost for the recycling dumpsters this month have gone down after speaking with the members of the DPW.

Reports

(5). Analytical Report from Eurofins Q.C. – Municipal Building Kitchen Sink

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed and noted that the results for coliform came back positive regarding the water test taken at the municipal building.

The EC recommended that Secretary Keller find out who reads the results and to make sure that this is treated and taken care of and to get back to them with what was done.

(6). JM Sorg Inc. Environ Consultant Re: Chris Citgo

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. The Commission requested that this be forwarded to Kingwood Board of Health and recommended that they consider contacting the property owners surrounding the property regarding the ground contamination.

5.

Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District

(7). HCSCD Notice re: Unauthorized Disturbance Noted – Block 15, Lot 1

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

New Business

(8). Environmental Commission – Annual Report Draft

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that she will work on the Annual Report for next month.

Old Business

Sustainable Aquaculture Systems, Inc.

(9). Copy of letter from the NJDEP to Sustainable Aquaculture Systems, Inc. Re: Deficiency Letter

"The Environmental Commission discussed the items listed in DEP's letter concerning wetlands. They had earlier in the evening asked the SASI representatives to send them the response they had sent to DEP about DEP's concerns, which they said they would send to Secretary Keller."

Action Items:

Sustainable Kingwood Update

There is no update at this time.

Fracking Ordinance – Update

Sandra McNicol noted that she brought the ordinance to ban fracking to the Township Clerk and asked what has been done. She explained that the Township Clerk sent the ordinance to several of the following towns, which included Alexandria, Milford, Holland, Frenchtown, Delaware, East and West Amwell townships. Sandra McNicol read aloud the e-mail letter which was sent to the towns along with a copy of the ordinance.

MEL – Update

Update from Gail Ashley

Gail Ashley noted that she met with Mr. George Pieczenik who attended last month's meeting. She noted that they talked about some of the information he had regarding MEL. She noted that he found out that MEL has the potential to have radio activity dumped into the ground. Mr. Pieczenik feels that Environ and the DEP are not doing anything about it. Gail Ashley feels that the NJDEP is supposed to be looking after the residents.

(10). Salt Plume Supplement Remedial Investigation Report and Proposal for Exception Classification Area

6.

(11). Map of Properties MEL Provided Bottled Water

The Environmental Commission suggested that they send out letters to the surrounding properties of MEL and recommend they get their water tested. Gail Ashley offered to draft a letter to send to the residents. The letter will be just a few questions as the status of what is going on with MEL. It was also suggested that maybe a member or two of the Environmental Commission meet with the public on Tuesday evenings during office hours at the municipal building to speak to the residents regarding their concern of MEL.

(12). Map of MEL Monitoring Wells

(13). Ground Water Contours Deep Wells List Near MEL

(14). MEL Chemicals – Right to Know Surveys from the Past – Update from Gail Ashley

Gail Ashley will be reviewing the right to know surveys before the next EC meeting.

PennEast Pipeline: - Update

Project Update for the PennEast Pipeline Project

(15). Township's Top 5 Concerns about the Proposal of the PennEast Pipeline

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the correspondence on the top 5 concerns.

(16). List of Township's Concerns of the PennEast Pipeline

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(17). Proposed PennEast Pipeline March 2016 Maps

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She explained the changes in the route and the work areas and where they will be set up on the map, which she prepared. Debbie Kratzer explained that the aquifer in the water would also be affected.

(18). PennEast Not Needed

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the article. She explained that it is a very interesting article, and very informative.

(19). E-mail from Updates @ PennEast March 17, 2016

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She reviewed several ads that spread the word about the Penn East Pipeline, which she sent to Secretary Keller to put upstairs for everyone to review.

7.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained that Penn East needs to send out their Environmental Impact Statement. She commented that she would like the EC to review it when we obtain a copy of it and send in any comments.

Horseshoe Bend Park – Update
Pollinator Meadow Project – Update

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that the EC is still working on getting the signs for the meadow.

(20). Garden-Certification and Order Form

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that there will be an additional sign put up for the butterflies for the Horseshoe Bend Park Pollinator Meadow.

Steven Spade contacted Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer notifying her that they have a grant available from the CDC to do arsenic testing. She noted that the EC had arsenic testing back in 2010. She is going to reach out to the schools to see if they would like to work with the EC on this project.

Site Plan Review

Open Space

Sandy McNicol – Update on Open Space and Agricultural Meeting of March 1, 2016

Sandra McNicol noted there is a tentative date of Saturday, May 21, 2016 for a ribbon cutting for the Horseshoe Bend Park East property.

(21). 2009 Preserved Properties Map – Kingwood ERI

Sandra McNicol reviewed.

(22). 2016 Map of Updated Preserved Properties

Sandra McNicol reviewed the properties that are currently preserved in the township.

Adjournment

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:15P.M. All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia L. Keller, Secretary