

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REORGANIZATION AND REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 24, 2017
7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Reorganization Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:05P.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 on December 22, 2016, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Courier News and the Express Times on December 14, 2016. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on December 14, 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

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Debbie Kratzer	Cynthia Niciecki
Lois Voronin	Timothy Cahalin
Gail Ashley	Willard Reasoner
Sandra McNicol	Joe Zgurzynski
David Posey	
Thomas Ciacciarelli	

Reorganize

Nomination for Chairperson

It was moved by Lois Voronin, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to nominate **Debbie Kratzer** Chairwoman for the Environmental Commission for 2017.

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

2.

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

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 2017.

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

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

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer took over the meeting at this time.

Motion and Approval of Scheduled Meeting Dates for 2017

January 24, 2017	June 27, 2017	November 14, 2017
February 28, 2017	July 25, 2017	December 12, 2017
March 28, 2017	August 22, 2017	
April 25, 2017	September 26, 2017	

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to approve scheduled meeting dates for the Environmental Commission for 2017.

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

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

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to approve the local newspapers (Hunterdon County Democrat and Courier News) for advertisements for the Environmental Commission for 2017.

3.

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

Minutes

(1). Approval of December 13, 2016 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to approve the December 13, 2016 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.

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

Correspondence

(2). Letter and Map from the NJDEP – Thank you for Participating in the Radon Action Month

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She asked that this be put on the website for the public.

(3). Radon – Info for Home Buyers and Sellers

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(4). NJDEP – News Release – Governor Christie Administration Awards \$14.3 Million in Recycling Grants to Promote Local Recycling Efforts

Sandra McNicol talked about the grant and how much the municipality will be granted. She noted that this award is for 2014.

Notice of upcoming meetings/workshops: Reminder of Dates

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer read aloud and reviewed the following upcoming meetings and workshops:

(5). 27th Watershed-wide Annual Stream Cleanup Saturday, April 22, 2016 from 9:00A.M. – 12:00Noon

(5a). Raritan Headwaters Stream Cleanup – Instructions

(5b). Webinar – Delaware River Keeper Network – Economic Costs of the Pipeline – FERC’s Failure To Consider

4.

Training for Environmental Commissions
Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions – Newly Updated for 2017

Basic and Advanced Sessions at Each Location and Date

1. Saturday, March 4, 2017 9:00am – 1:30pm New Jersey Audubon Plainsboro Preserve
 2. Saturday, March 25, 2017 9:00am – 1:30pm Cranford Community Center
 3. Saturday, April 1, 2017 9:00am – 1:30pm Atlantic County Utilities Authority
- (6). 21st Annual New Jersey Land Conservation Rally – Friday, March 17th, 8am-5pm – New Brunswick, NJ – www.njconservation.org/rally
- (6a). Free Program Seminar – Native Plant Society of NJ – Deer-Resistant Native Plants – Thurs. March 3rd, at 7:00PM Hunterdon Medical Center Auditorium

Recycling News and Update

Update from Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol

Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol noted the recycling shed has really helped the recycling center and that there is not much to clean up any longer. There was a brief discussion on the maintenance of the center. Sandra McNicol is working on the Recycling Flyer, which will go out in the annual mailing. She noted that she will get her letter out to the businesses to submit their tonnage numbers so she can work on the tonnage report, which needs to be submitted by June each year. She noted that the Clean Communities Coordinator from Delaware Twp. is trying to get a program together for Route 29 to be cleaned up. She noted that if there are any adults that would be interested in working on the highways, that would be great, but she does not recommend children.

Clean Communities – Certified Classes

Secretary Keller explained the e-mail received regarding NJ Clean Communities Coordinator Certification through Rutgers NJAES Office of Continuing Professional Education. Secretary Keller explained that Mayor Lubitz suggested this be brought to the Environmental Commission to see if someone would be interested to take the classes and become certified. Sandra McNicol explained the job description for the Clean Communities Coordinator to new member of the Environmental Commission, Thomas Ciacciarelli. She explained that the township receives a grant of approximately 15,000 a year to be used towards cleaning the community.

- (7). Article – Germans Are World Champions of Recycling

Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol reviewed the article.

Reports

- (8). Update on the Drought Condition for New Jersey

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the chart over the projector to see where Kingwood Township is at regarding the drought at this time. She noted that the precipitation has improved a bit, but that there is still a drought warning.

5.

(8a). Letter of Interpretation – Freshwater Wetlands – Block 26, Lot 23 92 Featherbed Road

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted she reviewed the map on Featherbed Road.

Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District

(9). HCSCD – Report of Compliance – Block 31, Lot 3.01

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that this is a report of compliance.

New Business

(10). Environmental Commission – Annual Report Draft

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer will be working on this for next month.

(11). 2017 ANJEC Membership Dues – Approval to Spend Funds

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

It was moved by Lois Voronin, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to approve the yearly membership for the 2017 ANJEC Membership Dues for all the members on the Commission in the amount of \$400.00.

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

(12). ANJEC Grant Programs for Environmental Commissions – Appl. Due Friday, April 7, 2017

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer explained grants Kingwood Township has received in the past. One was the Pollinator Meadow, Holden Grant. She asked everyone to think about applying for the grant, and that this be put on the agenda for next month in February.

Old Business

Update on Chris Citgo

Sandra McNicol noted that she was going to look into this and will do that this coming week. She will have something to report for next month.

Action Items:

Sustainable Jersey – Kingwood Green Team Update

Chairwoman reviewed the e-mail sent to the Kingwood Green Team.

MEL – Update

Update from Gail Ashley/Tim Cahalin

(13). Copy of Letter Sent to Neighbors of MEL – To Sign Petition – Update from D. Posey

6.

David Posey noted that the Environmental Commission has asked a leader from MEL to come work with the Township and the residents, but that he is unwilling to talk to the Commission. David Posey reviewed the letter he wrote to the neighbors within 200 feet of MEL. He explained the history of letter and petition he sent out to our new member Thomas Ciacciarelli. David Posey noted that the EC has received several responses and signatures and waiting for several more to come in.

(13a). 2017 Radioactivity in Groundwater at MEL

Gail Ashley noted speaking to Timothy Cahalin regarding documents he obtained from the NJDEP, which he sent to her. She explained that the size of the material is over 500 pages. She noted after reading a bit of it, there is definitely radioactivity. She gave a review of what MEI had worked with, and that it went into the ground and into the creeks.

Lois Voronin noted remembering what MEI sent regarding what they were doing with the materials and where they were being dumped many years ago. She noted in order to make a solid case, we need to review all of these documents.

There was a discussion of possibly hiring a chemist to review all of the material and be able to go through it quickly. Gail Ashley explained that it would take someone a long time to go through the information. The Commission noted that there could be some unhealthy materials being used.

(13b). MEL Supporting Documents

Gail Ashley reviewed the supporting documents she provided to the Commission Members.

(13c). NJDEP – North Jersey Homeowner’s Guide to Radioactivity in Drinking Water- Uranium

Gail Ashley reviewed the information from the NJDEP regarding North Jersey Homeowner’s Guide to Radioactivity in Drinking Water.

Sustainable Aquaculture Systems, Inc.

Updates

Review of Meeting - Franklin Twp. on January 11th, 2017

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that she, Lois Voronin, and Kingwood Township Attorney, David Pierce attended the Franklin Twp. Land Use Board meeting for the hearing of the Sustainable Aquaculture Systems and their construction project. She noted that there geologist was present, which they asked him several questions. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that Attorney David Pierce asked their geologist several questions. She reviewed what was discussed at the meeting in Franklin Township. Lois Voronin received the files and briefly reviewed what she read to the Commission.

The Commission expressed their concerns regarding Sustainable Aquaculture Systems and what they are not addressing in this project. They feel that the amount of water leaving the ground in one day is a very large concern in this area.

PennEast Pipeline: - Update

(14). Letter from the New Jersey Conservation Foundation Re: An invitation – Mtg. January 25, 2017

7.

Update on the PennEast Pipeline

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed a letter and meeting notice from the New Jersey Conservation Foundation that was sent to the landowners, which is tomorrow evening to talk about legal aspects.

(14-1). FERC – Revised Schedule for Environmental Review of PennEast Pipeline Project - Issuance of Notice of Availability of the Final EIS

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the revised schedule from FERC. It stated that due to additional environmental information filed by PennEast and certain state agencies since issuance of the November 8, 2016, scheduling notice, the Commission staff requires more time to analyze all the environmental data and prepare the final EIS. The Commission staff has therefore revised the schedule for issuance of the final EIS. The issuance of notice of availability of the final EIS is April 7, 2017 and the 90 day Federal Authorization Decision Deadline is July 6, 2017. She noted that the delay is good news.

Horseshoe Bend Park – Update Pollinator Meadow Project – Update on Sign

Sandra McNicol noted the sign she designed for the Pollinator Meadow Project is completed and she has received it. She described what the sign looks like, and stated that the Department of Public Works will install the sign at the Horseshoe Bend Park. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer thanked Sandra McNicol for her time designing the sign.

Site Plan Review

(14a). Possible Discussion – Amended Site Plan Appl. Accurate Waste Systems Block 17, Lot 8

Sandra McNicol who is a member of the township's Planning Board gave an update on Accurate Waste Systems. She noted that a letter was received from the Township Engineer, who received a letter from the owner from accurate waste systems. She read aloud the letter to the Commission Members regarding the changes they made to the property. She noted the changes were suggested by the township's Planning Board and that photos were taken, which showed the improvements requested by the Board. She explained that the owner has withdrawn his application and felt that it was too expensive to continue at this time.

(14b). Amended Site Plan – Map

The Commission briefly discussed the site plan map.

Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting of January 10, 2017 – Update from Sandra McNicol

Open Space Advisory Committee Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that Liz Schmid is working on several different properties at this time, but that nothing is being preserved at this time.

Debbie Kratzer noted that there are several anti – PennEast Pipeline signs to hand out and available for the public to take.

Adjournment

It was moved by Lois Voronin, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:40PM. All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.

Respectfully submitted, Cynthia L. Keller, Secretary