

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 28, 2017
7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:36P.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 2, 2017, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Express Times on January 25, 2017. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on January 25, 2017.

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
Gail Ashley
Sandra McNicol
David Posey
Willard Reasoner
Thomas Ciacciarelli
Timothy Cahalin

Absent

Cynthia Niciecki
Joe Zgurzynski

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

Richard and Donna Malgran, 170 Barbertown Point Breeze Road, thanked the Commission for serving on this Board for the Township. He is concerned about many things regarding MEL and what is going on in the walls inside of MEL. He wanted to know if the Commission knows what is going on regarding the uranium that may have polluted the ground.

David Posey learned from NJDEP staff about a possible avenue for an organization, such as our Environmental Commission, to get answers from a company like MEL and their “Licensed Site Remediation Professional” (LSRP). He noted that MEL needed to hire an LSRP to address some of their environmental issues.

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He explained that the Environmental Commission can demand him come to a public meeting and answer questions regarding MEL. David Posey explained a letter and a petition that the Environmental Commission sent out to encourage homeowners within 200 feet of MEL, to sign the petition so that this can be researched further. He noted that we need at least 25 individual signatures in order to send with a letter. He noted that there are many avenues to go down, but for right now they are trying this first step to get as much support from the neighbors of MEL to sign the petition and write up a letter to get the LSRP to address our questions.

Mr. Richard Malgran feels this is an urgent matter and asked if the NJDEP has been investigating this issue. He stated that the NJDEP should be notified by an attorney to have the specialist come speak to the Environmental Commission immediately. He would like the Commission to take this very seriously. He offered his help in writing a letter to the NJDEP.

Several Commission Members explained what they have done in the past to look into the ground water near MEL. They stated that they have currently been trying to reach out to MEL and Environ who has been hired to control what goes on at MEL, and to encourage them to come and speak to the Commission.

Mr. and Mrs. Malgran thanked the Commission and noted that they will be back in the future to find out an update of what they have obtained.

Minutes

(1). Approval of January 24, 2017 Environmental Commission Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by David Posey and carried to approve the January 24, 2017 Environmental Commission Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes.

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

Correspondence

(2). DEP News Release – DEP Wins International Award for Mobile APP that Lets Public Report Non-Emergency Environmental Incidents

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer briefly reviewed. David Posey noted that the NJDEP has a Hot Line available for anyone to report to them. He gave a brief example of some of the calls that are received from the NJDEP.

(3). Letter from the NJDEP – Re: Starting Ash Tree Management Along the Towpath in Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park

3.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer briefly reviewed. She noted that the information is included in the meeting package for the Environmental Commission to review. She explained the following that is available on the township website:

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is a non-native insect pest that infests and kills all species of ash trees. With 24.7 million ash trees, approximately 9 percent of New Jersey forests are susceptible to emerald ash borer attacks. NJ Forest Service will be cutting ash trees along Route 29 weekdays from 2/20 to 3/31.

Notice of upcoming meetings/workshops: Reminder of Dates – Correspondence Sent Last Month

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the following:

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

27th Watershed-wide Annual Stream Cleanup Saturday, April 22, 2016 from 9:00A.M. – 12:00Noon
21st Annual New Jersey Land Conservation Rally – Friday, March 17th, 8am-5pm – New Brunswick, NJ –
www.njconservation.org/rally

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 that the members of the Delaware Valley Athletic Association will be doing a roadside letter cleanup. She stated she has not determined the road yet. She feels that with the children out there cleaning up, this may alert people not to litter. She noticed that Route 29 and Route 519 have had a lot of garbage along the roads.

“Clean Communities Grant – Curb Inlets”

(4). CC Request Curb – Memo to Township Committee

Sandra McNicol explained she wanted to bring to the Environmental Commission’s attention that she has funds through a grant to be spent out of Clean Communities funds. She noted speaking to DPW Supervisor, Mark Petro regarding the curb inlets to be replaced on the roads, which he was going to look into last year. She stated that he looked into it again this year and obtained quotes for them. She explained how they work and stated we will be getting 70 inlets to be installed along the roads. She stated the largest problem is up in the Kings Ridge development where most of the inlets are the large openings. The idea is for this year to replace as many as we can.

(5). Curb Inlet Sample

The Commission reviewed the photos of the curb inlet over the overhead projector.

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(6). Curb Inlet Top

The Commission reviewed the photos of the curb inlet top over the overhead projector.

Sandra McNicol noted that the Township Committee will be reviewing and approving to put the curb inlets at their next meeting in March

Reports

(7). Update on the Drought Condition for New Jersey

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that we are still in a drought warning in New Jersey. She noted that the reservoirs and streams are still very low. She reviewed an updated chart for the Commission.

(7a). Drought Warning AO

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(7b). Drought Flyer

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(7c). Drought Toilet Tablet Sign

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She handed out the toilet tablets for everyone to take home and test their toilets for leaks.

(7d). Template Release for Municipalities Announcing Drought Warning

The Commission reviewed the template release for municipalities announcing drought warning.

(7e). Drought Awareness Kit

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(8). NJDEP – Notice of Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification-NJDEP Case#17-02-01-1443-35, and Notification Report (A310)

The Commission reviewed the notification report and the hazardous discharge notification regarding where it happened at MEL Chemicals. There was a lengthy discussion and concerns about communication with the township EMC after a hazardous substance discharge. They would like the Emergency Management Coordinator to be notified immediately if there is a substance discharge.

Right to Know Surveys

(9). MEL Chemicals Inc. Right to Know Survey for 2016

The Commission reviewed the MEL Chemicals Inc. Right to Know Survey for 2016 over the overhead projector. They discussed all the different substances used at the business. They feel that the Emergency Management Coordinator should know where all these files are and have access to them at all times.

5.

Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District

(10). HCSCD – Letter of Conditional Certification – Galleria Homes, LLC – B140, L8

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

New Business

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

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. She noted that there is nothing she can think of at this time, but suggested if anyone has an idea to apply, then to do so before the due date.

(12). Reference Page – Emerald Ash Borer

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(13). Emerald Ash Borer Sign Management

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(13a). Kingwood Twp. Environmental Commission Draft 2017 Objectives

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer asked everyone to look over the list and to see if anything should be added or omitted. The Commission all agreed the list looks very good. They all agreed to approve the list this evening.

It was moved by Gail Ashley, seconded by Willard Reasoner and carried to approve the Kingwood Township Environmental Commission Draft Objectives for 2017.

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

Old Business

Update on Chris Citgo

Sandra McNicol briefly reviewed the questions she plans to ask James Vander Vliet of JM SORGE, Inc. Environmental Consultants, regarding when the well testing will be done within two hundred feet of the station? If the property owners were notified about the contamination? How often will testing be done on the wells and how is it being done? What steps need to be done to complete this project? Will wells be capped, and will reports be sent to Kingwood, and how long has JM SORGE, Inc. been involved in the project?

Action Items:

Sustainable Jersey – Kingwood Green Team Update

Willard Reasoner to follow up and look into the Sustainable Jersey for Kingwood Twp.

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(14). New Jersey Clean Energy Program – NJ Board of Public Clean Utilities Energy

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed with the Commission the forms that were filled out in the past for the clean energy program.

(15). A. 2011-8-12 Donnelly Revised Participation Agreement and Scope of Work

(16). B. 2011-8-12 Donnelly Revised Participation Agreement and Scope of Work

(17). C. 2011-8-12 Donnelly Revised Participation Agreement and Scope of Work

MEL – Update

Update from Gail Ashley/Tim Cahalin

Gail Ashley noted that Timothy Cahalin purchased photo copies from the NJDEP when he filed an OPRA request of information regarding MEL. She explained that there is definite documentation that there is radioactive material in the ground at MEL.

There was a discussion as to whether the township would consider hiring someone to help look into the files regarding MEL. Thomas Ciacciarelli will bring this up at the Township Committee to discuss. The Commission is very interested to have a professional read the information, which Timothy Cahalin has obtained from the NJDEP to understand what MEL has been doing all these years. There was a discussion on testing wells near MEL for radioactivity.

Discuss the responses for MEL Petition – Letter

David Posey explained that they have now obtained more than enough signatures on the petition to compose a letter to the NJDEP. He will be working on the letter within the next month.

Sustainable Aquaculture Systems, Inc.

Updates

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the most recent meeting at Franklin Township Land Use Board who has voted to waive their well ordinance requirements. Lois Voronin went and had a lot of questions for the boards. It was noted that Kingwood Township supported the concerns the Environmental Commission has about the Sustainable Aquaculture Systems. Sandra McNicol reported that it was noted that SASI still need to get their discharge permit from the NJDEP.

Gail Ashley reviewed a chart in the aquifer of the ground water near the area of this project.

There was a suggestion to write a letter to the NJDEP with comments and suggestions from the Kingwood Environmental Commission.

(18). SASI – From Atty. David Pierce – Re: BL 49, Lots 21 and 23 – Request for Waiver of Aquifer Test Requirements – Report By Lois Voronin

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the letter to the Commission Members.

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(19). Copy of Letter of 2-21-2017 from Atty. David Pierce to Franklin Twp. Land Use Board

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

PennEast Pipeline: - Update

No updates this month.

Horseshoe Bend Park – Update

Pollinator Meadow Project – Update on Sign

Sandra McNicol reviewed the new sign for the Pollinator Meadow, which she has designed. The Commission commented on the great job Sandra McNicol did on the sign. Sandra McNicol reviewed the sign and explained how she made the sign and where she obtained the pictures.

Sandra McNicol noted she contacted the N J Audobon Society regarding the Citizen Scientist Program. She heard that the NJ Audobon Society has sent several people in the program to the Horseshoe Bend Park to do bird surveys. She noted there are three special concern species that are nesting at the park.

Debbie Kratzer explained the smaller signs she received in the mail to be put on at the HBP for the Pollinator Meadow.

There was a discussion on what the EC would like to spend the remainder of the grant on for the meadow. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer feels we need to follow through on the meadow management at the HBP. Sandra McNicol will look into this further. There was a discussion on the fields of the meadow, which have been cut and they need to discuss this with the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Site Plan Review

(20). Subdivision Application for Minor Subdivision – Block 40, Lot 8

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(21). Tax Map for Block 40, Lot 8

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(22). Kingwood Map – GIS Map – Block 40, Lot 8

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed a map that she supplied for the Commission to see where the subdivision will be going along Tumble Falls Road, which just shows there is one new lot.

Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting of February 7, 2017 – Update from Sandra McNicol

Chairwoman of the Open Space Committee noted there are six farms that are in several stages of review and they are trying to get their farms preserved.

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She noted that there is open space land to be preserved by various entities that is block 40, lot 19, which abuts the Kugler woods to the north along Route 29. She noted that it is vertical piece on a steep slope that leads to other open lands. Funds for this are coming from the Scenic Byway, which was through the Department of Transportation.

Thomas Ciacciaccelli noted that Richard Dodds asked him to tell the Commission that he applied to the State for trees to give them away to the public. We will receive approximately 1000 trees to give out. They will try to find volunteers to hand them out to the public. Sandra McNicol suggested this be advertised to other towns.

Adjournment

It was moved by Thomas Ciacciarelli, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:56PM. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller, Secretary