

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 28, 2017
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 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
Cynthia Niciecki
Gail Ashley
Sandra McNicol
David Posey
Thomas Ciacciarelli
Willard Reasoner

Absent

Timothy Cahalin
Joseph Zgurzynski

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

Richard and Donna Malgran, 170 Barbertown Point Breeze Road,
The Malgrans did not attend the meeting this evening.

Martha Wood, Member of FUUFHC Buildings and Grounds Committee for the First Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hunterdon County (FUUFHC), Owner

2.

Martha Wood was present to talk to the Environmental Commission regarding their Bat exclusion and relocation plan from the Old Stone Church at Oak Summit to the cemetery across the street. She explained that they are present to get permission to put up bat houses to relocate the bats from the church.

She reviewed the following request:

The attic of the Old Stone Church is home to a colony of about 90 big brown bats.

We think they relocated from the Oak Summit Schoolhouse next door after briefly residing in the bat houses that were placed on the back of that building prior to the exclusion there.

Unfortunately those houses are on the north façade and bats prefer the warmth of a southern exposure. They found the hot church attic more attractive.

We need to be able to safely access our attic for inspection by historic preservation specialists in order to identify what work needs to be done to preserve the structure. The bats and the resultant guano must be safely relocated as a first step.

The legal window for bat exclusion is fast approaching. This work must be done before the next generation is born. The spring window is April 1-30. They cannot be disturbed again until August 1-October 1 after the young are weaned.

We have a proposal for this work from Garden State Wildlife Control who did the work at the Schoolhouse along with Conserve Wildlife. I have attached the proposal and a Bat Fact Sheet.

We would like to provide an attractive new housing option for the Oak Summit Colony. There are no guarantees the bats will choose what we offer, but we have learned that a bat house placed as close as possible to the former home stands the best chance of attracting them.

We are requesting your help in the form of a recommendation to the Township Committee for placing a bat house on a 4x4 pole @ 13 feet above the ground along the hedgerow between the cemetery and cultivated field across the Oak Summit Road from the church. We will also place a house on our chimney to give the bats options.

FUUFHC will gladly bear all costs and do the installation, but we of course would welcome support, particularly if someone had an auger for making the posthole. The best location for the bats is close to the church, but there are other considerations such as utilities and aesthetics to be discussed.

Martha Wood explained they are here to find out what the Environmental Commission thinks about their ideas and to get some guidance.

She thanked the Environmental Commission for their time.

3.

The Environmental Commission gave their thoughts and discussed the project. They all agreed that the bat exclusion and relocation from the Old Stone Church at Oak Summit to the cemetery across the road is a good idea and will recommend to the Township Committee to approve the project to be conducted on township property.

It was moved by Gail Ashley, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to recommend to the Township Committee to approve the project for a bat exclusion and relocation from the Old Stone Church at Oak Summit to the cemetery across the road on township property.

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

Minutes

(1). Approval of February 28, 2017 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to approve the February 28, 2017 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.

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

Correspondence

(2). Flyer from NJDEP – Re: Earth Day Events

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the flyer from the NJDEP regarding the Earth Day Events.

(2a). Watershed Grants

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer recused herself and left the meeting room at this time.

Vice Chairman David Posey took over the meeting. He reviewed what the watershed grants are all about. He noted that the NJDEP has posted the availability of up to \$10.4 million in Water Quality Restoration Grant money at www.nj.gov/dep/grantandloanprograms. These grants help improve water quality through implementation of nonpoint source (NPS) pollution control projects. Government agencies and non-profit organizations are eligible for funding under this grant program. He noted that applications are due Thursday, May 4, 2017 and a public information session will be held at the Department on April 6, 2017 at 1:30pm.

4.

He suggested the Township Committee may want to look at this and decide on a certain watershed restoration project. Committeeman Thomas Ciacciarelli noted he will bring this up to discuss at the next Township Committee meeting on April 6, 2017.

Lois Voronin offered to reach out to the NJDEP and find out more about the grants. Vice Chairman David Posey suggested, since the application is due by May 4th and we cannot come up with anything this year, we can think about it and prepare for next year.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer returned and continued chairing the meeting at this time.

(2b). Stormwater Management Training – FYI

Sandra McNicol noted that this is for the Environmental Commission’s information. She gave an overview of all the infiltration basins. She explained that it gives an idea of what is accepted and what is not. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer suggest that this may be good to add to the township’s planning ordinances.

Notice of upcoming meetings/workshops: Reminder of Dates – Correspondence Sent Last Month Training for Environmental Commissions

(3). 2017 New Jersey Invasive Species Conference – Wed, April 5th – 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. Sandra McNicol noted that she would like to sign up and attend the meeting.

It was moved by Gail Ashley, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to approve Sandra McNicol to attend the 2017 New Jersey Invasive Species Conference on Wednesday, April 5th, 2017 and to approve the Environmental Commission to spend \$50.00 out of their budget account.

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

27th Watershed-wide Annual Stream Cleanup Saturday, April 22, 2017 from 9:00A.M. – 12:00Noon, Location: Duke Farms, Hillsborough

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

(3a). Free Tree Seedlings for Residents – Horseshoe Bend Park – April 22, 2017 10am-2pm South Entrance

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

5.

(3b). 2017 Meetings Reminder from Hunterdon County Chapter of the Native Plant Society of NJ

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the list of meetings. She noted the most recent meeting coming up is Thursday at 7:00PM at the Hunterdon Medical Center Auditorium. They will be speaking about “Dragon Flies”. There will be another meeting on Thursday, April 13th at 7:00PM and the topic will be “Native Plants in Rain Gardens and Naturalized Detention Basins.” She noted everyone is invited and the programs are free. If you plan to attend, please RSVP at hunterdon@npsnj.org

Recycling News and Update

Update from Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol

Sandra McNicol noted she attended the County SWAC meeting on March 21st. She stated that all the municipalities are in the process of collecting their tonnage for the tonnage grant submission. She is also working on the Clean Communities Grant submission paperwork and making many calls. She noted that the Clean-Up Program for the township begins on Saturday, April 8th from 9:00am to 12:00 noon. She stated on March 11th, was the monthly Saturday recycling day and the recycling depot was open. She explained the hazardous waste cleanup may only be scheduled for once a year at the County since it is so expensive. She feels that it is an extremely popular program.

“Clean Communities Grant – Curb Inlets”

Sandra McNicol noted they have been ordered and have arrived. She noted they will be installed this spring season by the Department of Public Works.

Reports

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

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the update on the drought conditions at this time. She stated that we are still in a drought warning here in Kingwood Township. She noted that the reservoirs are still very low.

(5). Authorization for Freshwater Wetlands Letter of Interpretation – Extension, Bl 40, L8, 8.02, 8.03

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

Right to Know Surveys

(6). Right to Know Survey for 2016 – Aqua Survey Inc. 469 Point Breeze Road

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

6.

Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District

N/A

New Business

(7). Environmental Commission – Annual Report Draft

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted she has not had the time to do this report yet, but offered if to the Commission Members if anyone would be interested to work on it.

(8). Freshwater Wetlands Application Checklist – Notice to Neighboring Landowners –B117, L8 (Former Lutz Property) Block 15, Lot 8.01 NJDEP – Receptor Evaluation Form & Alt

(8a). Receptor Evaluation Form

(8b). Figures

(8c). Section B: On Site and Surrounding Property Use

(8d). One Mile Well Search

(8e). Tables

(8f). Section D: Well Search Narrative

The Environmental Commission reviewed the above information.

Old Business

Update on Chris Citgo

Sandra McNicol noted she spoke to James Vander Vliet of JM SORGE, Inc. Environmental Consultants, regarding when the well testing will be done within two hundred feet. She noted it was her second conversation with him. She told him her main concerns are the wells around the property, which have not been tested. He said that the wells will be tested up gradient of this leakage up to 250 feet and down gradient any residents within 500ft of the plume. She noted the property owners were never notified of the contamination. If the residents do have to sample their wells, they will need to test for “Volatile Organic Chemicals”. She asked how often the tests will be done. He noted the tests will be done for many years. He also said the wells will be capped. He offered his guidance and said if the Environmental Commission would like to review the reports, he will provide them. Once every two years they will be checking the wells and then from that point on indefinitely. Sandra McNicol noted her main concern are the wells around the property. The Environmental Commission feels that there is a real concern regarding the wells and the water near Chris Citgo.

7.

Reminder: 2017 ANJEC Grants for Open Space Stewardship Projects – Applications Due: April 7th

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed. Willard Reasoner offered to possibly apply for a grant for the Open Space Stewardship Project. The Commission suggested a letter from the Township Committee accompany the application.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to support Willard Reasoner to look into the application for 2017 ANJEC Grants for Open Space Stewardship Projects.

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

Action Items:

Sustainable Jersey – Kingwood Green Team Update

Willard Reasoner noted he would like to get Sustainable Jersey points through the Open Space Stewardship Project.

MEL – Update

Update from David Posey – Petitions Re: MEL

Committeeman Tom Ciacciarelli noted the Township Committee would like to see what efforts our Vice Chairman David Posey has with the petitions. Vice Chairman David Posey explained the history of MEL, and what the Environmental Commission has done so far to look into getting the NJDEP to look into this further. He noted the Commission has been working to get William Kraft from Environ, who is a licensed professional to come to an Environmental Commission meeting so they can speak to him about MEL. Vice Chairman David Posey reviewed the petitions and the reasoning for it to the audience present. He noted he prepared the petitions and letters for the neighbors within 200 feet of MEL with their concerns of the ground water in that area. He stated he then e-mailed the petitions to the correct department. He is waiting for an answer from the NJDEP to verify the location of the property and to let him know if they need any additional information.

Vice Chairman David Posey explained other options the township can take if the first option does not work along with possibly hiring a consultant.

Committeeman Thomas Ciacciarelli noted he reviewed some of the reports for MEL.

8.

He asked the Commission Members several questions regarding what they knew about what chemicals MEL used in the past. He suggested that the Environmental Commission make a recommendation to the Township Committee, which would be that the township and the Emergency Management Coordinator be notified of any spills at MEL. He feels that the EMC should be notified immediately of any spills of chemicals or any other hazardous materials on the property.

It was moved by David Posey, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to recommend to the Township Committee to write a letter to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection requesting they notify our township and the Emergency Management Coordinator and be listed under their hotline number when emergencies or spills occur on the property.

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

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the following correspondence between the township and Environ.

- (9). E-mail – Richard Dodds From Environ – Re: Site Remediation Program 9-24-2015
- (10). Letter to Richard Dodds From Environ - November 9, 2015
- (11). E-mail to Richard Dodds From Environ – Well Abandonment Related to MEI ISRA Matter
- (11a). Follow up E-mail – From Environ – Response from R. Dodds

Sustainable Aquaculture Systems, Inc.

- (11b). Dr. Souza Comments on T Dwyer Model

Debbie Kratzer reviewed the comments from Dr. Souza on T Dwyer Model over the projector.

Lois Voronin noted she is going to comment on her concerns after reviewing Dr. Souza's comments. She will get them to the Township's Attorney.

The Commission reviewed a history of the Sustainable Aquaculture Systems for the public.

PennEast Pipeline: - Update

Rally Against PennEast Pipeline – HALT No Certification Without Justification Event – April 8th, 2017

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the Rally on April 8th, 2017 at Prallsville Mills in Stockton N.J. She noted she put the flyer on the website if anyone is interested.

9.

Horseshoe Bend Park – Update

Pollinator Meadow Project

The Commission talked about where they would like to put the sign that Sandra McNicol designed. She will contact the DPW to have them meet a few members of the Environmental Commission to decide where they would like it put up in the Meadow.

(12). Horseshoe Bend Park Field Management Plan

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the Horseshoe Bend Park Field Management Plan for the public. She explained that they would like to provide a better habitat for the species. There was a suggestion to meet with the Parks and Recreation Committee to see if they would like to get involved with the field management plan. She would like to make a presentation to the Parks and Recreation for their ideas. The Commission reviewed a map of the fields at Horseshoe Bend Park where the meadow is located.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer suggested talking about it at the next EC meeting and then going to the Park and Recreation Committee's May meeting.

Site Plan Review

N/A

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

Sandra McNicol reviewed the Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting of March 7, 2017. She noted they are waiting for Federal funds to come through. She noted that there are approximately 8 properties waiting to be preserved.

Adjournment

It was moved by Gail Ashley, seconded by Willard Reasoner and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:13P.M. All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller,
Environmental Commission Secretary