

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 25, 2017  
7:30 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:35P.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  
Thomas Ciacciarelli  
Willard Reasoner

**Absent**

Cynthia Niciecki  
Joseph Zgurzynski  
Timothy Cahalin

**Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor**

Richard Malgran, Township Resident, Commented that he attended the February EC meeting, and is sorry he missed the March meeting. He noted that his concerns regarding MEL are many. He feels that MEL is an important aspect of what the Kingwood Township Environmental Commission is all about. He stated he is speaking for the public who is very concerned about other issues. He stated he is not sure if this has been addressed to the Commission before, but it has to do with transparency and whether there are any conflicts of interest with anyone that sits on this Commission regarding MEL. He suspects that if MEL were not in Kingwood Township, there would not be an Environmental Commission. Lois Voronin commented she did not agree. Mr. Malgran noted that MEL is an important aspect of the Township.

2.

He would like the Environmental Commission members to let the secretary know if there are any conflicts of interest with MEL such as any family members employed by MEL, or do any business with MEL, or employed by MEL and feels that this is an important issue under the Hazardous Discharge issues.

He apologized for not being able to stay for the rest of the meeting this evening. He thanked the Environmental Commission for their time. He requested that the minutes of the last meeting from March 28<sup>th</sup> be sent to him now that they have been approved.

The Environmental Commission thanked Mr. Malgran for coming to the meeting.

### Minutes

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

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

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

### MEL – Update

#### Update from David Posey – Petitions Re: MEL/Update from Gail Ashley

The Commission Members reviewed the following Suspected Hazardous Discharge Notices from the NJDEP for the following dates:

- (8a). Notice from NJDEP – Suspected Hazardous Discharge – July 20, 1994 – Re: MEL
- (8b). Notice from NJDEP – Suspected Hazardous Discharge – June 5, 2004 – Re: MEL
- (8c). Notice from NJDEP - Suspected Hazardous Discharge – August 24, 2011 – Re: MEL
- (8d). Notice from NJDEP - Suspected Hazardous Discharge – August 25, 2011 – Re: MEL
- (8e). Notice from NJDEP - Suspected Hazardous Discharge – October 12, 2011 – Re: MEL
- (8f). Notice from NJDEP - Suspected Hazardous Discharge – February 2, 2017 – Re: MEL

Gail Ashley discussed a conversation she had with William Kraft and Nick Scala from Environ. The following is an outline of their conversation:

### **Communications with Environ, Inc. EC Meeting 04/25/2017 G.M. Ashley**

April 13, 2017- William Kraft & Nick Scala called Ashley office (Rutgers) left voice mail

April 18, 2017 – 3-way speaker phone conversation.

- (1) They have produced a report on MEL plume completed last year (2016).....which they thought they had sent us? Maybe this is the one they said would be “done in a few weeks” in conversation with Richard Dodds (2015). We did not get it.

3.

I asked them to send a copy of this report to the Kingwood Township office, and they said they would and would make a pdf available to me on google drive.

(2) Pumping salt water? Still pumping to maintain a cone-of-depression (to contain the plume).

(3) Bottled water? MEL decides what houses get bottled water. They would enquire.

(4) I invited them to come to one of our EC meetings in the fall. They said:

(a) they would ask their client, the person paying their contract. They thought they would likely get permission.

(b) they wanted to have a list of questions ahead of time, so that they could prepare.

(5). They said that they knew nothing about the chemical spills at MEL, except “the ponds”. Environ

(Kraft) is LSRP for **Pond 3**. They also said their contract is for containment of the salt plume only and does NOT pertain to any other water quality issues (like radionuclides). They do not receive notices of spills (like the radium<sup>226</sup>, Feb 2017).

(6). They suggested we contact **NJBER** (NJ Bureau of Environmental Radiation) if we have justifiable concerns.

The Bureau of Environmental Radiation is responsible for licensing more than 700 users in the state, including hospitals, universities, industrial facilities, doctors, irradiators, water treatment systems, and pharmaceutical companies.

### **Does MEL have a license?**

#### Spills that Kingwood received notification from NJDEP

Feb 2017 Radium226 (5 gallons) radioactive

Aug 2014 Zirconium Oxychloride (6000 gallons) pH =1 (acidic)

Oct 2011 Radioactive solid (dumpster 30 yd<sup>3</sup>)

Aug 2011 Radioactive solid (roll-off dumpster); set off alarms

June 2004 Radioactive solid (dumpster 40y<sup>3</sup>)

July 1994 Radioactive liquid (radon? Ur <sup>234</sup> & U <sup>238</sup>) –illegal dumping (Wickechoeke Creek).

Gail Ashley explained that it would be in their best interest to come and speak to the Commission. Gail Ashley noted that these gentleman have never received any notification regarding spills, as far as, what has been found from the NJDEP. They feel that they work with the salt plume only.

Gail Ashley noted that they do have a link to radioactive material from MEL. She stated that they have no idea of any recent spills or notifications of any spills.

4.

Gail Ashley reviewed the list of notices from the NJDEP regarding suspected hazardous discharge for several dates over the years with the Commission. The Commission feels that the township should be notified when there is a spill of hazardous substances at MEL.

He explained that a letter was sent out years ago requesting that the township be notified, but there was no response. He noted that the Township Committee discussed this at their last meeting and that the township attorney has been instructed to write a letter to the NJDEP requesting that the township and the Emergency Management Coordinator be notified of any spills the day it happens.

Thomas Ciacciarrelli feels that the township should contact the NJ Bureau of Environmental Radiation regarding the Environmental Commissions concerns. He will discuss this at the next Township Committee meeting.

Lois Voronin suggested that we ask that they get water tests done for the homes surrounding MEL for radiation in the fall discount water testing.

Update from David Posey – Petitions Re: MEL

David Posey noted he provided all the signatures to the Office of Community Relations and stated that their task is now to accept those folks as part of our 25 signatures that we needed to meet. He noted it is in the review and that he has not heard back from them. He noted speaking with an employee from that department and that we need to wait and see if they accept the 25 signatures that have been submitted. He explained that the Environmental Commission wants an opportunity to speak to them.

Richard Malgran feels that the Township Committee should request that all the wells surrounding MEL be tested and payed for by the township to find out what is in the ground.

The Environmental Commission had a discussion regarding the monitoring wells in the township that have not been tested in a while. They discussed how they would like the most recent status report of those wells.

Gail Ashley noted that she would like to send a copy of the plats from the properties in close proximity of MEL to Environ for them to review.

**Correspondence**

N/A

**Notice of upcoming meetings/workshops: Reminder of Dates -**

Review of Native Plant Society of NJ – Hunterdon Chapter Meeting: Native Plants in Rain Gardens and Naturalized Detention Basins – April 13, 2017 Hunterdon Medical Center

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer briefly reviewed.

5.

**Recycling News and Update**

Update from Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol

Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol gave an update on the recycling program. She noted there was a road cleanup along Oak Grove Road in April by the Delaware Valley Athletic Association. She stated they did a great job. She may have a group that is interested in a cleanup for Locktown Road up to the bridge, which they are not looking to receiving any funds, but they would like to clean up the area.

Sandra McNicol would like to see all the garbage companies pick up recycling at the curb. She noted that there are so many people dumping items that do not belong in the recycling center at the township garage.

She feels that it is such a large expense also because the dumpsters are being filled up and exchanged so often, which is costing the township a lot of money. The Environmental Commission discussed phasing the recycling center out of the township. They would like to make a recommendation to the Township Committee to consider getting rid of the recycling center.

It was moved by Willard Reasoner, seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to phase out the township's recycling depot.

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

It was moved by Lois Voronin, seconded by David Posey and carried the motion to recommend to the Township Committee to pass an ordinance requiring all the disposal companies that provide services to township residents to require those companies to provide recycling disposal with garbage disposal.

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

The Commission had a lengthy discussion regarding needing more time to talk about the ordinance. They feel that they would like to put it on hold at the time being and discuss and research this further.

**“Clean Communities Grant – Curb Inlets”**

**Reports**

Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol briefly reviewed.

6.

(2). Update on the Drought Condition for New Jersey – April 2017 Chart

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer briefly reviewed the update on the drought. She stated that our area is no longer in a drought, which is good. She stated that there are other areas in New Jersey that are still in a drought.

**Right to Know Surveys**

N/A

**Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District**

(3). HCSCD – Letter of Conditional Certification – Block 8, Lot 25.14 – Braco Dwelling

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

**New Business**

(4). Environmental Commission – Annual Report Draft

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted this is not completed yet.

(5). Copy of Memo Sent to Twp. Committee – Requesting a Letter Be Written to the NJDEP Requesting Kingwood Township Be Put on the Hotline List to Be Notified of Emergencies Or Spills and that the Emergency Management Coordinator is Notified

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the memo the Environmental Commission sent to the Township Committee Members.

**New Business**

(5a). Letter from Cramer Ecological Services, LLC – Statewide General Permit 10A Application  
Re: Block 40, Lot 8.04

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer briefly reviewed. It was noted that this the property on Tumble Falls Road.

**Old Business**

**Update on Chris Citgo**

Sandra McNicol reported that JM Sorge is handling this remediation. Her plan is to contact a few residents to speak to them to see if they heard anything about the well testing.

(6). Copy of Memo From EC to Township Committee Members – Recommendation for Bat Exclusion and Relocation from the Old Stone Church at Oak Summit

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed.

7.

Update – Members of Oak Summit Church - Permission to Place Bat Houses on township owned property across from the church

Thomas Ciacciarelli reported that this was approved by the Township Committee Members at their April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the following from Martha Wood, member of the Oak Summit Church:

- (7). E-Mail of Oak Summit Bat House from Martha Wood
- (8). Image of the Bat House at Oak Summit

The Commission reviewed the image over the projector.

**Action Items:**

Sustainable Jersey – Kingwood Green Team Update

**Sustainable Aquaculture Systems, Inc.**

Update

There was a brief discussion on the ground water basin. Lois Voronin feels that Kingwood should have an opportunity to comment on this subject.

**PennEast Pipeline: - Update**

Update on the Rally Against PennEast Pipeline from April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer reviewed the Rally of April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

The Commission Members reviewed the following listed topics 9-15:

- (9). March 2017 - Update Newsletter from the PennEast Pipeline
- (10). Attachment A – Freshwater Wetlands Application Checklist – PennEast Pipeline
- (11). Letter from PennEast Pipeline to Township Re: Easement Acquisition Offer Letter
- (12). Bee Research Screen Shot
- (13). Bee Research – Info for Landowners
- (14). Rethink Energy – Press Release
- (15). NJCF SBMWA Letter to NJDEP – PennEast Permits – April 11, 2017

The Commission briefly discussed each item above. Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that #14 and #15 are very good correspondence items to read.

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer noted that comments to FERC are always a good idea and encouraged everyone to send their comments.

8.

Sandra McNicol noted that Mike Spilling created a three dimension of the pipeline from an aerial view. She noted this is on the Kingwood Township web page and that it is very interesting.

She stated that everyone should look at this map. She feels that everyone should know about the blast zone and how it will affect everyone.

#### Discussion on Final Environmental Impact Statement from FERC

The Environmental Commission briefly reviewed. She received a CD disk of the Final Environmental Impact Statement if anyone would like to download the information to review.

Two action items the EC can work on are:

1. We should comment on FERC's Identical Language in the EIS.
2. We need to address and point out the issues that have not been addressed.

There was a discussion on the wetlands permit application from PennEast. It is available in the Clerk's office. There was a discussion on the CD of the Final Environmental Impact Statement from FERC, which Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer received a copy and offered others to review it if they would like.

#### Horseshoe Bend Park – Update

Pollinator Meadow Project – Update on Sign

Lois Voronin mentioned deep ruts from a truck that drove through the pollinator meadow. There was a discussion and a suggestion to put up a large log in front of the road near the meadow to prevent anyone from driving over the field.

#### Site Plan Review

Minor Subdivision – Block 37, Lot 18 – Site Plan Map for Your Review

The Commission briefly reviewed.

#### Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting of April 4, 2017 – Update from Sandra McNicol

Open Space Advisory Committee Chairwoman, Sandra McNicol noted there was not much to update from the April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Open Space and Ag meeting.

#### Adjournment

It was moved by Willard Reasoner, seconded by David Posey and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:37P.M. All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cynthia L. Keller,  
Environmental Commission Secretary