

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REORGANIZATION AND REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 23, 2018
7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Reorganization Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:35 P.M. Secretary Michele Tipton-Walters 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 December 21, 2017, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Express Times on December 14, 2017. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on December 14, 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

Maureen Synchronick
Debbie Kratzer
Lois Voronin
Gail Ashley
Sandra McNicol
Ralph Celebre
Mara Tippet
Cynthia Niciecki

Absent

Willard Reasoner
Timothy Cahalin

Reorganize

Nomination for Chairperson

It was moved by Lois Voronin seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to nominate **Debbie Kratzer** Chairperson for the Environmental Commission for 2018.

2.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye	- Kratzer, Voronin, Ashley, McNicol, Celebre, Tippet, Niciecki
Nay	- None
Abstain	- None
Absent	- Reasoner, Cahalin

Nomination for Vice Chairperson

It was moved by Sandra McNicol seconded by Gail Ashley and carried to nominate **Mara Tippet** Vice Chairperson for the Environmental Commission for 2018.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye	- Kratzer, Voronin, Ashley, McNicol, Celebre, Tippet, Niciecki
Nay	- None
Abstain	- None
Absent	- Reasoner, Cahalin

Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer took over the meeting at this time.

Motion and Approval of Scheduled Meeting Dates for 2018

January 23, 2018	May 22, 2018	September 25, 2018
February 27, 2018	June 26, 2018	October 23, 2018
March 27, 2018	July 24, 2018	November 27, 2018
April 24, 2018	August 28, 2018	December 18, 2018

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Cindy Niciecki and carried to approve scheduled meeting dates for the Environmental Commission for 2018.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye	- Kratzer, Voronin, Ashley, McNicol, Celebre, Tippet, Niciecki
Nay	- None
Abstain	- None
Absent	- Reasoner, Cahalin

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

It was moved by Gail Ashley, seconded by Ralph Celebre and carried to approve the local newspapers (Hunterdon County Democrat and Courier News) for advertisements for the Environmental Commission for 2018.

3.

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

Minutes

(1). Approval of December 4, 2017 Environmental Commission Special Meeting Minutes

It was requested by the Committee that the approval of the December 4, 2017 Environmental Commission Special Meeting Minutes be tabled until the February 27, 2018 meeting.

(2). Approval of December 12, 2017 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Mara Tippet and carried to approve the December 12, 2017 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.

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

Guest Presentation:

Fairfax Hutter, AmeriCorp New Jersey Watershed Ambassador for Central Delaware, presented to the committee a proposal to plant trees at the Kingwood Park location during the AmeriCorp Tree Planting theme week tentatively planned for March 10 – 17, 2018. The Nature Conservancy would fund the purchase of the tree planting aligning their “Roots for Rivers” project, to plant 100,000 trees along the waterways of New Jersey, with the AmeriCorp Tree Planting week.

Fairfax Hutter reviewed maps depicting where along the Locatong, at the Kingwood Park location, the planting would occur. Three parcels were noted; upstream of bridge on Union Rd., above and below on western side of park and a parcel downstream of the bridge. The trees are manually planted by shovel requiring volunteers. Maureen Synchronic suggested contacting the local Boy Scouts involvement, Sandy McNicol suggested the Del Val High School Environmental Club and Ralph Celebre suggested reaching out to the Raritan Valley Community College Environmental Club for volunteers. The trees are supplied in tubes for protection and these tubes break away underground as the trees grow. Many members of the Committee suggested the use of an auger to reduce labor of planting which could improve volunteer turnout.

A requirement of AmeriCorp is that the planting site be monitored for four years.

4.

Fairfax Hutter requested permission from the Environment Commission to apply to the Nature Conservancy. She also requested suggestions on sources for nursery stock to contact for purchase information.

Debbie Kratzer recommended that the Tree Planting project be done in partnership with AmeriCorp. She also suggested that Fairfax present this project to the Park and Rec Committee at their next meeting on February 7, 2018.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Mara Tippet and carried to approve the AmeriCorp Tree Planting project contingent on the Township Committee approval.

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

Correspondence

(3). DEP News Release:

Reviewed by Committee

(4). Article Mountains of US Recycling Pile Up as China Restricts:

Reviewed by Committee

(5). 22nd Annual NJ Land Conservation Rally:

Chairperson Debbie Kratzer encouraged committee members of any interest in attending the Rally.

(6). 18th Annual Earth Day Celebration

Noted.

Notice of upcoming meetings/workshops: Reminder of Dates

Maureen Syrnick noted an ANJEC upcoming training for Environmental Commission members that addresses members' responsibilities, resources and funding..

Recycling News and Update

Update from Recycling Coordinator Sandra McNicol.

The public continues to dump non-recyclable material into the recycle containers. Sandra McNicol recommends the recycling center at the Department of Public Works be supervised or close the gates to the recycle center during the day. It was noted that DPW is opposed to closing the gates.

The annual mailing update to members of the community will include a separate sheet educating the residents on what should and should not go into the recycle containers.

5.

Reports

(7). Notice from the NJ DEP – Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification – 85 Fairview Rd. Block: 28, Lot: 6.
Reviewed.

(8). Notice from the NJDEP – Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification – 354 County Rd. Block: 26, Lot: 7
Reviewed.

(8a). FoHVOS Strike Team Report January 2018
Chairperson Debbie Kratzer asked if there was anyone on the Committee that would be interested in attending the Strike Team Conference regarding invasive species on April 11, 2018. Sandra McNicol and Ralph Celebre expressed interest in attending.

(9). ANJEC 2018 Membership Renewal

Chairperson, Debbie Kratzer asked the Committee to vote on renewal of the ANJEC membership for 2018.

It was moved by Gail Ashley and seconded by Sandy McNicol and carried to approve the renewal of the ANJEC membership for 2018.

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

(9a). LOI Block: 25 L: 7, 136 Kingwood –Locktown Rd., J. Tareila Env. Consulting

Chairperson, Debbie Kratzer noted that this property is almost entirely wetland. Wetland regulations have changed as of December 2017 so this property may fall under the new regulations for building.

She also noted as an employee of NJDEP she cannot discuss the DEP’s position on topics. She can send information links to committee members.

Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District :

(10). HCSCD – Block: 40, Lot: 21, 123 Byram Lane – Soil Erosion & Sediment Control Plan Review Letter

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

6.

Old Business :

Chris's Citgo

Sandra McNicol noted that there has been no spread of contamination to neighboring properties to date.

Action Items:

Sustainable Jersey – *Kingwood Green Team Update*

Chairperson Debbie Kratzer encourage committee members to consider joining the Sustainable Jersey sub-committee. Mara Tippet and Ralph Celebre both expressed interest in joining. Committee secretary to send "Citizen Leadership" form to both members.

MEL – Update:

Gail Ashley expressed interest in writing a critique / summary of the MEL December 4, 2018 presentation to distribute to committee members.

Sandra McNicol expressed concern over the possible reduction of water levels in Kingwood Township due to MEL and the Fish Farm. Lois Voronin volunteered to research aquafer test results and water tables for the township and report back to the Committee

(11). Copy of Letter to Office of Community Relations – Re: Petition for substantial Public Interest.

Chairperson Debbie Kratzer reviewed

PennEast Pipeline Update:

2018 Penn East Order Issuing Certificate CPI15-558-000

Chairperson Debbie Kratzer discussed next steps in response to Certificate.

PennEast cannot go on a property without the homeowner's permission or a court order saying that they can.

Maureen Synchron reviewed the Issuing Certificate and felt it left out many of the issues brought up by residents, scientists and organizations. Suggested the Environmental Committee send a response to the docket stating issues presented had been overlooked.

Committee members encouraged to write letters to NJDEP with specific concerns of PennEast Pipeline.

Horseshoe Bend Park – Update:

(12). Copy of Letter to Michael Flood, Volunteer at Horseshoe Bend Park from Twp. Committee Reviewed.

7.

(13). Kingwood Township Environmental Commission 2018 Objectives:

Chairperson Debbie Kratzer addressed the need to discuss and finalize the committee's objectives for 2018. It was suggested that committee members make suggestions for objectives at the February 23rd meeting.

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

Open Space Advisory Committee Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that two properties were preserved at end of 2017. Tranquility on Ridge Rd approximately 105 acres and Hudson property on Route 29 approximately 15 acres.

Open Space Committee is seeking one additional member preferably from the northern end of Kingwood Township.

Adjournment

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Ralph Celebre and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 PM.

All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.

Respectfully submitted by,

Michele Tipton-Walters
Secretary