

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 27, 2018
7:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:40 P.M. Chairperson, 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 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
Mara Tippet
Gail Ashley
Timothy Cahalin
Ralph Celebre
Sandra McNicol

Absent

Lois Voronin
Cynthia Niciecki
William Reasoner

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 to the March 27, 2018 meeting.

(2). Approval of the January 23, 2018 Environmental Commission Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes

Correction/Change:

Mara Tippettt reminded the Committee secretary that the spelling of her last name is incorrect in the January 23, 2018 minutes.

It was moved by Gail Ashley and seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to approve the January 23, 2018 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.

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

Correspondence

(3). NJ Land Conservancy Scholarships
Reviewed

(4). NJ Land Conservancy Membership Renewal
Reviewed

(5). 22nd Annual NJ Land Conservation Rally:
Sandra McNicol reminded committee members to consider attending this Rally. Mara Tippettt Stated that she plans to attend.

(6.) NJ Conservation Foundation Sample Letter to Gov. Murphy re: DEP-PennEast Regs.
Reviewed

(7). ANJEC News January 2018
Reviewed

(8). DEP News Release:
Reviewed

(9). NJ Tree Recovery Campaign
This event is scheduled for April 21st which is the same day as the Ameri-Corp Tree planting event at Kingwood Park. Maureen Syrnick will confirm the date and also asked for volunteers to help distribute the trees.

(10).Tree City USA
Reviewed

Notice of upcoming meetings/workshops: Reminder of Dates

N/A

Recycling News and Update

Sandra McNicol updated the Committee on the Kingwood Township Recycling program for 2018. The program information will be included in the Township spring mailing to residents.

Reports

(11). Sub-Division County Road 519, Block: 12, Lot: 33

Maureen Syrnick, as Planning Board reported that after review the Planning Board found this application to be missing information. The Planning Board will determine completeness at their next meeting. It was requested that this agenda item be tabled to the March meeting.

(12). DEP “No Further Action” Letter Estate of Sarah M. Fold Block: 26, Lot:15, 181 Kingwood Locktown Rd. Frenchtown.

Reviewed

(13). Hunterdon County Soil Conservation Report of Compliance Block: 51, Lot: 23, 123 Byram Lane Stockton

Reviewed

Old Business

Update Chris’s Citgo

On February 21st Sandra McNicol wrote to Jim *Vandercleef* and to follow up with the below questions:

- How many resident wells were tested and how many refused?
- When will residents’ wells be tested again and frequency moving forward?
- Will the testing expand to other residents not included in original test?
- When were the Test wells last checked for contamination levels and what were the results?
- What are the results from initial sampling compared with current sampling?
- Were microbes used to digest, breakdown and seeped into the groundwater?

Action Items

(14).

2018 Environmental Commission Objectives

Gail Ashley noted that the objective “Evaluate and remove invasive species on township owned properties and “Encourage the use of native trees and plants” may seem redundant. She suggested removing the word Evaluate. Sandra McNicol suggested adding a Planning Board category to the Environmental Commission Objectives and listing the Invasive Species objective to that category. Debbie Kratzer agreed and will revise this objective.

Maureen Syrnick suggested the Environmental Committee establish an “Invasive Species Day” for volunteers to come out and remove invasive species in targeted areas.

Maureen Syrnick noted that per the Township engineer, Thomas Decker, we are currently under the state criteria in measurable points for Storm Water Education. This topic will be discussed at the next Township Committee meeting Thursday March 1, 2018. Maureen Syrnick will report the Township Committee’s determination on the education points and how to manage expected changes for municipalities regarding Storm Water Retention to the Environmental Commission.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Tim Cahalin and carried to approve the Environmental Commission Objectives for 2018.

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

AmeriCorps Riparian Buffer Restoration at Kingwood Park

The AmeriCorps tree planting project has been approved by the Township Committee and has the support of the Parks and Recreation Committee. There will be a mix of trees and shrubs planted at Kingwood Park. Planned planting date is April 21, 2018 but will be confirmed by Debbie Kratzer.

Seed Collection Permit

Toad Shade Wildflower Farm, Frenchtown, NJ has requested permission to collect Gooseberry seeds at Horseshoe Bend Park. Their seed collection would not exceed 5% of total seeds within the Park. Sandra McNicol suggested that the Farm representative should send a letter to the Township outlining their intent.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Ralph Celebre and carried to approve the request that Toad Shade Wildflower Farms be granted permission to collect up to 5% of Missouri Gooseberry seeds at the HBP

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

Sustainable Jersey

Mara Tippet noted that she is a new member of Sustainable Jersey but is not sure of next steps. Tim Cahalin will bring past information to next meeting to aid new members.

MEL Update

Debbie Kratzer requested secretary, Michele Tipton-Walters, obtain quotes for verbatim transcription of the December 4, 2017 Special Meeting/MEL presentation minutes.

Tim Cahalin requested that the recording of the same meeting be uploaded to the Township website. Secretary, Michele Tipton-Walters will communicate the findings of both requests to the

Committee members via email. Sandra McNicol suggested the Committee allow extra time at next meeting to conclude this agenda item.

PennEast Pipeline: Update:

(15). Answer of the PennEast Pipeline to the Motion for Stay of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network Docket No. CP15-558-000

Maureen Synchronic reviewed current status of the Pipeline application. The application has been closed by NJ DEP which means that PennEast has to re-apply and start from the process from the beginning.

(16). Kingwood Township Request for Rehearing for Stay Docket Nos: CP15-558-000 / CP15-55-001.

No response to date.

(17). Response Letter from DEP

Reviewed

Site Plans

(18). Quakertown Solar Farm, LLC – Blk:15.01, Lot:1 DEP Application for General Permit Authorization.

Reviewed

(19-19.1) Locktown Veterinary Services

Application for Site Plan approval had to go before the Board of Adjustment. Variance for this project was granted.

Horseshoe Bend Park Update

N/A

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

Open Space Advisory Committee Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed the Kingwood Township NJ Public Open Space and Preserved Farms 2018 map.

Adjournment

It was moved by Gail Ashley and seconded by Sandra McNicol to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 PM. All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.

Respectfully submitted by,

Michele Tipton-Walters
Secretary