

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

April 24, 2018

7:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:35 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

Debbie Kratzer
Maureen Synchronick
Lois Voronin
Ralph Celebre
Gail Ashleu
Timothy Cahalin
Mara Tippet
Cynthia Niececki

Absent

Sandra McNicol
Willard 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 until completion of audio file transcription.

(1). Approval of Hiring Transcription Services for the December 4, 2017 Environmental Commission Special Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Gail Ashley and seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to approve the hiring of professional transcription services for documenting the December 4, 2017 Special Meeting with MEL.

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

(2). Approval of the March 27, 2018 Environmental Commission Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Lois Voronin and seconded by Ralph Celebre and carried to approve the March 27, 2018 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes as corrected.

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

Correspondence

ANJEC 2018 Grants for Open Space Stewardship Projects
Reviewed

DEP News Release March 29, 2018
Reviewed

DEP News Release April 4, 2018
Reviewed

DEP News Release April 5, 2018
Reviewed

50th Anniversary National Trail System Act
Reviewed

Rowan University Modeling Tool for Build Outs – NJ

The Geospatial Research Lab at Rowan University has developed a modeling tool to study the impacts of build out in New Jersey. The team would like to meet with the Environmental Commission to discuss build out in Kingwood Township. Debbie Kratzer stated she will contact the Geospatial Research Lab and make an appointment to meet with them. Maureen noted that New Jersey is the first state to reach full build out.

Notice of upcoming meetings/workshops: Reminder of Dates

Ralph Celebre discussed the FoHOS Invasive Species Workshop that he and Sandra McNicol attended. The program was informative and well run. A representative from NJISST gave a very good presentation. He stated that they expect 20 new invasive species this year.

Mr. Celebre shared that New York State has a law against buying or selling any invasive species and landowners are expected to remove any known invasive species from their property.

At this time New Jersey has no comparable Invasive Species law.

Maureen Synchronick suggested posting information regarding the environmental effects of invasive species on the Kingwood website and Facebook page. The posting should include a link to show residents the difference between native vs invasive species.

Recycling News and Update

N/A

Reports

Proposed legislation transferring NJ Fish and Wildlife from NJDEP to NJDOA.

Timothy Cahalin requested that the Committee be given additional time to review the proposed legislation. Debbie Kratzer requested that this topic be added to the May agenda.

State Historical Preservation Office APE “No Adverse Effect” – TriLeaf

Maureen Synchronick stated that a response letter was sent to the State Historic Preservation office after the determination of APE. The response was to inform the Office that Native American artifacts have been discovered in the same area that has been approved to build the stealth phone tower. It was agreed by the Committee to add this topic to the May agenda to discuss final determination.

Tree Giveaway at Horseshoe Bend Park April 21, 2018

Maureen Synchronick reported that the Township had given away the total inventory of Tree Seedlings by 11:30am. This year was the best turnout ever seen for the tree giveaway. Residents stated they had heard about the event through word of mouth and the Kingwood Township Facebook page. The Committee discussed greater use of Facebook to reach residents for future events.

Tree Planting at Kingwood Park April 21st and 23rd, 2018

Debbie Kratzer reported that 320 trees that were donated by the Nature Conservancy were planted by a group of volunteers on Saturday the 21st and another 120 trees by a small group on the 23rd. There will be one more organized day for planting on April 25th.

Old Business

Update Chris's sit and go

No Update

Action Items**Storm Water Rule Changes/Update on Educational Points – Van Cleef Report**

The Commission requested that Secretary, Michele Walters, follow up with both the Planning Board and The Board of Adjustment to determine how many total members have viewed the required Storm Water Training video. Maureen Synchronick reminded the Committee that in order to pass this element at 12 members of those combined two boards must view the video.

Cynthia Niciecki reported white coverage over rocks on a creek bed running through their property after last rainfall. It is assumed the white coverage is a result of salt runoff. The Commission discussed the dangers to the environment due to the use of salt in clearing snow and ice off the roads. It was suggested that the Township look into the use of cinders for road maintenance during winter storms.

Luxfer (MEL) Update

N/A

Action Items

The Commission agreed to offer discounted water testing and septic cleaning programs in fall 2018. Michele Walters was asked to find out how many residents used RA Data for water testing in 2017 and report back to the Commission at the May meeting.

PennEast Pipeline: Update:

Maureen Synchronick reported that no decision has been made by the court regarding PennEast to date. The court has held one out of three scheduled sessions to hear testimony of both landowners and PennEast representatives. Cynthia Niciecki attended the hearing and had an opportunity to speak before the judge. She explained the history of her family farm and the impact the pipeline would have on her farm and the local environment as a whole. She reported that there were many landowners there to present to the court.

Members reviewed a letter written by the SADC to the owner of the Lambert Little Farm which is a preserved parcel.

The letter stated if the order of condemnation is received the SADC (and the farmland preservation easement holder if other than the SADC) must review any offers made by PennEast prior to the landowner payment to ensure that the negotiated value adequately reflects the current market value of the development potential.

Site Plans

N/A

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

N/A

Adjournment

It was moved by D Kratzer to adjourn the meeting at 9:17pm. All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.

Respectfully submitted by,

Michele Tipton-Walters
Secretary