

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
June 26, 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:40 p.m.

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 Synchron  
Debbie Kratzer  
Ralph Celebre  
Sandra McNicol  
Mara Tippet  
Cynthia Niciecki

**Absent**

Loui Voronin  
Timothy Cahalin  
Gail Ashley  
William Reasoner

**Public Comments**

Jack Niciecki commented on poison hemlock growing on the Niciecki property. Debbie Kratzer stated that poison Hemlock is a native plant and if dangerous and should not be touched. It looks very much like Hogweed which is not dangerous. She recommend taking photos and seeking help from DEP or the Invasive Species Strike Team to identify if the plants are Hemlock or Hogweed.

**Approval of the April 24, 2018 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes**

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Mara Tippet and carried to approve the April 24, 2018 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes as corrected.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

### **Correspondence**

HCSCD Letter of Certification – Mustang Dev. Block 39 Lot 15.02 Old Road.  
Reviewed

HCSD Letter of Certification – Pauch Dev. Block 29 Lot 22.20 Barbertown-Idell Rd.  
Reviewed

ANJEC Newsletter  
Reviewed

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

Hunterdon Sustainability Team Training Opportunity  
Reviewed

Rowan University NJ Map Build-Out Modeler on line training  
Maureen Synchronick reviewed the Rowan Build Out presentation that took place at a past Planning Board meeting. The Rowan GIS system incorporates Kingwood block and lot maps and zoning regulations to show future build out and the effects on the Nitrate levels in the soil. This measurement helps to determine how many septic systems the Kingwood soil can ultimately handle. The project is not completed at this time but will be a very useful tool in Kingwood land management in the future. Ms. Synchronick demonstrated the different tools available on the Rowan NJmap2.com GIS system.

Native / Non-Native Plant Workshops July 2018  
Reviewed

Tree Mapping Technologies June 28, 2018  
Reviewed

NJ Sustainability Summit College of NJ June 21, 2018  
Mara Tippet gave a brief summary of the NJ Sustainability Summit. She felt it was beneficial and helped break down the steps required to develop a Sustainable Jersey group in our township.

Rain Barrel Building Workshop  
Frenchtown Environmental Commission is hosting a Rain Barrel workshop on June 30<sup>th</sup> which is sponsored by Americorp NJ Watershed and presented by ambassador, Fairfax Hutter. Cost is \$25.00 and attendees will make their own barrel to use at home.

### **Recycling News and Update**

Recycling Glut – Wall Street Journal  
Sandra McNicol discussed the “Recycling Glut” article about China’s reduced use of US recyclable material for industrial use and the back-up (glut) of material that US now needs to process.

Ms. McNicol stated that the hauler that Kingwood Township has used for years has been less and less responsive and she is not sure if the difficulty getting them to pick up the recycle has anything to do with this international issue.

Sandra McNicol gave a brief review of the Tonnage Report submission.

Sara Alpaugh, Math teacher at Kingwood Township School coordinated an environmental education session for the PK, K and 1st grades. Diana Dove, who does environmental programs in NJ schools taught the children about bugs, birds, wild flower gardens and littering. This presentation was repeated for the K-4<sup>th</sup> grade students in the After School Program. Clean Communities money was used to support this program.

Sandra McNicol stated that Stephanie Fox, who works for NJ State Parks, and the Recycling Coordinator from Delaware Township invited Kingwood to do a fall river clean-up project. She asked the Commission members to let her know if anyone would like to help coordinate and participate in this event. If there is no other interest Kingwood will not participate this year.

### **Sustainable Kingwood**

Township's Committee's Reaffirmation of Sustainable Kingwood.

Mara Tippet stated that in order to be certified as a Sustainable Jersey township we need to meet the minimum criteria of 150 point Bronze level. Kingwood currently meets criteria totaling 70 points having completed one priority, creation of the Green Team, and four out of six categories completed. At this point she believes that we are on track to achieve the Bronze level for 2019.

Some criteria we can work on are:

- a. Hunterdon County Creative Assets Inventory is an ongoing project that Ms. Tippet feels Kingwood could be involved with.
- b. State Police offers drop off for unused pharmaceuticals. Ms. Tippet suggested we add this information to the fall mailing for resident education. She will contact the State Police in Kingwood to confirm this program.
- c. Commercial / Institutional recycle program
- d. Wildlife Protection Plan
- e. Build Out Analysis
- f. Farmland Preservation Plan

Ms. Tippet requested that we also establish an email for Sustainable Kingwood. Secretary, Michele Tipton-Walters will request address [sustainable@kingwoodtownship.com](mailto:sustainable@kingwoodtownship.com) be added as a receiving email address.

Ms. Tippet will reach out to various Environment Commission members to gather more information and for development of the remainder criteria that Kingwood needs to meet in order to qualify for this designation.

## **Reports**

NJDEP Flood Hazard Area Control Act Rules General Permit Application re: Property State Hwy 12 / Whiskey Lane

Debbie Kratzer stated that this wetlands mitigation has already been reviewed by the Environmental Commission. The Commission had no comment at that time.

Suspected Hazardous Substance discharge near 76 Tumble Idell Rd. Block 32 Lot 1.06

This was a car accident which spilled a toxic substance and clean-up is in progress. Update to follow.

## **Old Business**

### **Approval of December 4, 2017 Environmental Commission Special Meeting Minutes**

Debbie Kratzer requested to continue to table the December 4, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes until August 2018. By that time she expects to meet with Gail Ashley to listen to the CD and ensure all pertinent information is included in the Special Meeting minutes.

The Commission voted to have this meeting professionally transcribed at the March meeting. Shortly afterward it was determined that the Environmental Commission budget may not cover this cost so the Commission expects to have the transcription done at the end of 2018 when the budget is renewed.

### **Proposed legislation transferring NJ Fish and Wildlife from NJDEP to NJDOA**

Maureen Synchronick stated that she has received positive feedback from residents that NJDOA would be more knowledgeable regarding the effects of wildlife on agriculture and thus more supportive to local farmers.

Mara Tippet voiced concerns about the difference in the two department goals and that they may be at odds with one another especially in regards to deer management.

Sandra McNicol stated the Fish and Wildlife have, in the past, come and moved farmers off certain land for wildlife protection but then did not come back and maintain those fields. Non-Native plants grow and take over and the wildlife end up with poor feeding environment and the farmers are unable to work the land.

### **Farm Lease Feedback**

Debbie Kratzer had some questions regarding wording in section #2 General Terms of Lease of the Farm Lease. She will email Mayor, Richard Dodds with the Environmental Commission questions and feedback before the July 10<sup>th</sup> Open Space/Ag meeting.

### **Fall Mailing**

Carry to July meeting agenda

## **Action Items**

**Storm Water Submission – Van Cleef Report**

Reviewed

Fall Discount Water Testing and Septic Cleaning Program

Mara Tippet, representing Raritan Headwaters, stated that she met with Frenchtown Environmental Commission and they had asked if Kingwood Environmental Commission would be amenable to doing a community well testing in partnership in the fall.

Ms. Tippet discussed the water testing program that Raritan Headwaters offers to every homeowner in the Raritan watershed and although Kingwood and Frenchtown are outside of that area the Headwaters group has made this program available to residents of these towns.

Homeowners can purchase a basic kit for \$60.00 and are sent to Garden State Labs for results. Residents can select more than the recommended basics of coliform bacteria and nitrates which means they can address their individual needs and health concerns.

It was noted that these self-collecting water tests although accurate do not qualify as “Chain of Custody” results to be used in a court case.

Discount water testing and septic cleaning using Raritan Headwaters services for water testing and to go out to bid for resident septic cleaning services.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to approve the use of Raritan Headwaters for resident water testing for 2018 and to go out to secure bids for resident septic cleaning services.

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

Fall Mailing Old Business on July agenda

Luxfer Update

N/A

PennEast Pipeline: Update:

PennEast Circuit Court Petition

Awaiting courts decision.

Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committee Update from Sandra McNicol:

Other Matters

The Commission would like to send a Thank you letter to Fairfax Hutter for the Americorp tree planting project at the Kingwood Park in April. Debbie Kratzer will send Secretary, Michele Tipton-Walters detailed information on the project to acknowledge the depth of work and effort that Ms. Hutter put into this project.

Horseshoe Bend Park Update

**Adjournment**

It was moved by Sandra McNicol to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 pm. All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.

Respectfully submitted by,

Michele Tipton-Walters  
Secretary