

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 24, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:33 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
Ralph Celebre
Sandra McNicol
Mara Tippet
Gail Ashley
Lois Voronin

Absent

Cynthia Niciecki
William Reasoner

Public Comments

Approval of the June 26, 2018, 2018 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Mara Tippet and carried to approve the June 26, 2018 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes as corrected.

Under Roll Call:

Mara Tippet was incorrectly listed as Mara Tippet.

Under Public Comments:

The June 26, 2018 minutes state:

- Poison Hemlock is a native plant. Correction: Poison Hemlock is not a native plant.
- Hogweed is not dangerous. Correction: Hogweed is dangerous.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Approval of the December 4, 2017 Environmental Commission Special MEL/Luxfer Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Gail Ashhley and carried to approve the December 4, 2017 Environmental Commission Special Meeting MEL/Luxfer Minutes.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Correspondence

ANJEC Resolution Request Single-Use Bag Legislation

Reviewed

Ralph Celebre stated that this legislation, if passed, will exclude “small businesses”. Criteria for small business has yet to be determined.

Approval of the Recommendation to Township Committee to adopt the Resolution for Single Use Bags

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Mara Tippet and carried to approve a Recommendation to the Township Committee to adopt the Resolution for Single Use Bags noting these changes:

Change the last statement from “All single use bags” to “All single use non-biodegradable, plastic bags”.

Eliminate the statement “With a fee on those bags”

Closing statement to be changed to read “Therefore encouraging the use of reusable and biodegradable bags”.

DEP Management Tool Letter and Address List

Lois Voronin stated that NJDEP is supposed to supply tools to municipalities so that they can make informed decisions but she is unaware of tools available to determine ground water availability. It does not appear that the DEP has funded anything in fractured rock to determine ground water availability in this part of the state.

In order to gain more information from DEP Ms. Voronin re-wrote the original comments from the NJ Water Supply Master Plan in a letter format to be sent to various members of DEP. The Commission discussed the point that wells that produce less than 100,000 gallons a day are not regulated by the DEP. It was previously determined that those lower producing wells don't have a major effect on the aquifer system. Kingwood is already in a deficit since the recharge rates are slower than average here.

Ms. Voronin will mail letter this letter to Steve Domber, NJ Geological and Water Survey for Division of Water Supply and Geosciences, The Office of Water Resource Management Coordination and NJ DEP, Division of Water Supply and Geoscience. She will send copies to the Township Committee also. Sandra McNicol requested that this topic be placed back on the August agenda for follow up. The Commission thanked Lois for her work on this important issue.

ANJEC 2018 Environmental Achievement Award

Reviewed

Notice of upcoming meetings/workshops: Reminder of Dates

ANJEC Environment Congress October 12

Reports

LOI – E2 for Verizon Cell Tower

Reviewed

LOI 63 and 67 Muddy Run Road

Reviewed

Action Items

Discount Resident Septic Pumping Quotes

Approval of Bid Award to Russell Reid for the 2018 Resident Discount Septic Cleaning Program.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Lois Voronin and carried to approve the awarding of bid to Russell Reid for the 2018 Resident Discount Septic Cleaning Program.

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

Old Business

Fall Mailing:

Water/Septic/Drug Drop-Off Mailing piece

The Commission reviewed and made minor changes to the mailing piece created by Mara Tippet. Secretary, Michele Tipton-Walters to send copy of what will be sent to the residents to Russell Reid once program dates are determined.

Recycle – Fall Mailing Inclusion Discussion

The Commission decided that the Recycle piece that went to residents in the spring mailing was sufficient for 2018.

Debie Kratzer presented detailed information pertaining to the Tree Planting Project at the Kingwood Park in April to be used in a Thank You Letter to be sent to Fairfax Hutter, Nature Conservancy, Hunterdon Land Trust and supervisor and Bureau Chief of DEP. Letter to be sent from the Environmental Commission.

Recycle News and Update

Sandra McNicol reported on the difficulty of working with the current vendor, Raritan Valley Disposal, for the Township Recycle program. Bids went out and no other company was able to match our current vendor's price.

Ms. McNicol noted that other Townships are discussing the possibility of eliminating bottles and cans, co-mingled, dumpsters but will keep the paper recycle program. The co-mingled is problematic because of poor compliance regarding what bottles and cans should be recycled and most of the comingled items that are dumped are not cleaned as required.

Sustainable Kingwood

Resident suggested posting description of Sustainable Kingwood on website. Mara Tippet will write a description and forward to Secretary, Michele Tipton-Walters to be posted.

Horseshoe Bend Park – News and Update

Mile-a-Minute Weed Treatment

Ralph Celebre contacted a specialist from NJ Department of Agriculture Lab who met him and Mayor, Richard Dodds at the Horseshoe Bend Park. Advice that was given was to introduce a particular weevil that is known to thrive on eating the Mile-a-Minute weed. The Township has done already taken on the project and the weevils are in the area but it will take many years to obtain the necessary equilibrium to keep the weed in check naturally. In the meantime, the representative recommended using Round-Up but to change the time of year that the Township sprays from July to June. Spraying in June will destroy the seeds in addition to the plants which will reduce the overall volume of spraying necessary. Signs announcing the spraying are posted in all affected areas.

Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting News and Update

N/A

Luxfer – Update

Maureen Synchronick suggested that the time-line for MEL/Luxfer remediation be reviewed. Gail Ashley has the original MEL Binder with the time line. She will report back at the next meeting.

December 4, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes will be posted to the Township web-site. Secretary, Michele Tipton-Walters to report if there is public interest in a meeting transcript or tape at subsequent Environment Commission meetings.

Chris's Sit and Go

Sandra McNicol has sent multiple letter and email inquiries to Jim Vanderbleek of Sorge Environmental Group representing Chris's Sit and Go. She has received no response to date.

PennEast Pipeline Update

Prailsville Mill in Stockton is hosting a potluck dinner tomorrow July 25th. The lawyer representing homeowners will be on site to answer questions.

PennEast is currently contacting property owners and asking if they'd like to have their wells tested. Once on-site they ask many questions which is in effect an informal survey. They have not filed with NJDEP yet due to lack information forthcoming from property owners.

Horseshoe Bend Park Update

See above Mile-a-Minute Weed Treatment

Adjournment

It was moved by Sandra McNicol and seconded by Lois Voronin to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 pm. All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.

Respectfully submitted by,

Michele Tipton-Walters
Secretary