



Kingwood Township Environmental Commission Annual Report for 2013

General

- ◆ Renewed membership in the Association of NJ Environmental Commissions (ANJEC).
- ◆ W.Reasoner attended “Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions.”
- ◆ S.McNicol attended “Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Meeting Workshop.”

Recycling

- ◆ EC members volunteered for Saturday morning hours.
- ◆ Updated recycling instruction sheet, which was mailed to all residents & available on the website. Items accepted continue to include: metal/glass/plastic containers; paper/cardboard; scrap metal; electronics; and clothing.
- ◆ Volunteer clean-up day held 4/13/2013 (coordinated by S.McNicol).

Open Space and Parks & Recreation

- ◆ Maintained the Native Plant Rain Garden at Kingwood Park.
- ◆ After the North Jersey Butterfly Club (NJBC) noted the presence of the rare Gray Comma butterfly (*Polygonia progne*), several other uncommon butterflies, and a notably high diversity of butterflies at Horseshoe Bend Park, D.Kratzer and S.McNicol arranged and met with NJBC and discussed ideas for management of fields to benefit pollinators and threatened bird species. NJBC submitted a document with these recommendations, which the EC forwarded to the Township Committee, recommending implementation.
- ◆ Kingwood received \$20,981.00 grant from NJDEP (2012 Recreational Trails Program). Work was coordinated by Committeeman Richard Dodds, which provided for trail improvements at Horseshoe Bend Park including kiosks, mile markers and boardwalks through a number of wet spots.
- ◆ Upon Township Committee’s request, EC agreed to be in charge of stewardship of the NJDEP property known as Kugler Woods (200 acres off of Route 29, with ¼ mile trail to waterfall).
- ◆ Natural Resource Inventory for Horseshoe Bend Park funded by Lower Delaware National Wild and Scenic River Watershed Protection Initiative grant to Hunterdon Land Trust. Link: http://www.kingwoodtownship.com/KT_Environmental/HorseshoeBendPark_NR_I_Nov2013.pdf

Ordinances/Resolutions

- ◆ Supported Planning Board adoption of Ordinance No. 17-02-2013 Environmental Impact and Assessment/Threatened and Endangered Ordinance (adopted 2/7/2013).
- ◆ Supported adoption of Ordinance No. 17-14-2013 concerning driveways, hopefully to help prevent environmental problems associated with inappropriately sited driveways, e.g. in wetlands (adopted 7/1/2013).

- ◆ Recommended that the Township Committee adopt Ordinance No. 17-16-2013 Chapter 15-Environmental Commission to encode the practice that the Township Committee member is non-voting, and that the EC members choose the chairperson (adopted 7/1/2013).
- ◆ Recommended that the Township Committee adopt Ordinance No. 17-20-2013 to revise Park Rules in order to prohibit the collection, abuse, mutilation etc. of any plant, animal or natural resource on Township owned park properties (adopted 12/5/2013).

Outreach/Education

- ◆ Completed 10 points of Stormwater education projects, as required by NJDEP.
- ◆ Community Day 9/21/13—information on NJWSA project, native species, arsenic in ground water, etc.
 - 3 separate (but adjacent) tables for Environmental Commission, Open Space and Recycling information.
 - Discounted water tests and septic pumping.
- ◆ Americorps Watershed Ambassador Lindsay Blanton attended November meeting to discuss possible projects in the Lockatong Creek Watershed.
- ◆ Participated in online survey by The Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program called “Stormwater Infrastructure Survey” about rain gardens etc. – completed by D. Kratzer.

Site Plan Review

- ◆ Delaware River Tubing – Block 50, Lot 9 – reviewed site plan application and variances and submitted EC review to BOA on 6/5/2013. S.McNicol presented EC comments at 6/12/13 BOA meeting.
- ◆ Delaware River Tubing – Block 50 Lot 9 – reviewed application to NJDEP for construction of stairs in the Delaware River, but NJDEP had already approved before our meeting.
- ◆ Accurate Waste Systems – Block 17 Lot 8 – reviewed Conditional Use Application and submitted comments to the Planning Board on 9/25/2013.

Surface Water

- ◆ Cooperated with and supported implementation project(s) for Lockatong and Wickecheoke Watersheds Restoration and Protection Plan (with NJ Water Supply Authority). Project website: <http://www.raritanbasin.org/lockwick.html>.
 - Robert O’Neil, Principal Watershed Protection Specialist (NJWSA), gave an update on project at the February meeting.
 - EC and community volunteers helped with planting native plants in the Kingwood Park filter strip project (2 locations - near maintenance building and beyond the playground).
 - Continued discussions about projects to be completed in 2014 in Kingwood Park adjacent to Lockatong Creek.

Ground Water

- ◆ Coordinated well testing and septic pumping during community day.
- ◆ Reviewed MEL Quarterly Homeowner Well Sampling Results
- ◆ Attempted to arrange for a representative of MEL to speak at a meeting.

Sustainability

- ◆ Worked on energy audit of township owned buildings (T.Cahalin).
- ◆ Frenchtown Green Team rummage sale at the Horseshoe Bend Park 6/22 & 6/23 cooperatively with Kingwood Green Team (earned \$2,233.28 total; or \$1,116.64 per community).
- ◆ Environmental Commission continued to receive meeting packages electronically to reduce waste.

Invasive Species

- ◆ Renewed membership in NJ Invasive Species Strike Team (NJSST).
- ◆ Open Space and Ag Advisory Committee hosted presentation by Craig Chianese, Soil Conservationist and Evan Madlinger, Biologist with Natural Resources Conservation Service, NRCS, regarding their ideas on managing invasive plant species and habitat for threatened and endangered species of plant, birds, mammals and amphibians at Horseshoe Bend Park.

2013 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

Deborah Kratzer (Chair)

Joseph Zgurzynski, **Alt. #1**

David Posey (Vice-Chair)

Willard Reasoner, **Alt. #2**

Gail M. Ashley

Diana Haywood, Township Committee representative

Timothy Cahalin

Cynthia L. Keller, Secretary

Sandra McNicol

Cynthia Niciecki

Lois Voronin