

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP  
 RECYCLING COMMITTEE MINUTES  
 REORGANIZATION MEETING  
 January 5, 2021 - TUESDAY, 7:30 P.M.**

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**CALL TO ORDER AND STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Recycling Committee was called to order at 7:31 PM on January 5, 2021 by R. Georgett.

**2021 ATTENDANCE (X- present; E – excused; A – absent - \* attendance via Zoom)**

Recycling Committee Member	1/5/2021	2/2/2021	3/2/2021	4/6/2021	5/4/2021	6/1/2021	7/6/2021	8/3/2021	9/7/2021	10/5/2021	11/9/2021	12/7/2021
Alison Castellano	X											
Susan Kadlec	X											
Erica Johanson	*											
Mark Gunn	*											
Chantal Napoleon	X											
Vacant	-											
Vacant	-											
Rick Wolfe Township Committee	*											

*Others present: Coordinator, Rosemary Georgett, Mark Castellano, Township Committee*

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, this is the annual reorganization meeting pursuant to the Notice as published in the December 17, 2020 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. A copy of the agenda was forwarded to the Hunterdon County Democrat, placed on the Township Website, and posted on the Township Bulletin Board.

**NEW BUSINESS – REORGANIZATION –**

- A. A Motion was made by M. Gunn and seconded by E. Johanson nominating Alison Castellano for Chair of the Recycling Committee. With no other nominations made, R. Georgett called for a vote and the nomination was unanimously approved.
- B. A motion was made by E. Johanson and seconded by S. Kadlec nominating Mark Gunn for Vice-Chair of the Recycling Committee. With no other nominations made, R. Georgett called for a vote and the nomination was unanimously approved.
- C. Sub Committee Leads:
  - a. TREX: There was discussion regarding Chantal Napoleon filling this role in 2020 and doing an excellent job. S. Kadlec asked what the responsibilities are and C. Napoleon described the responsibilities saying it is primarily finding and communicating with the project group as well as being at the Depot to oversee collection. A. Castellano said that C. Napoleon will have a new baby to care for soon and maybe she can still lead with work with E. Johanson and A. Castellano providing back up support. C. Napoleon said she is fine being the lead if someone else can lead until she comes back, and A. Castellano agreed to do this.
  - b. Communications/Community Education: R. Georgett volunteered to do this and A. Castellano said she will also be involved as she takes care of the website, etc. There was further discussion and it was agreed that A. Castellano and R. Georgett would coordinate this together.
  - c. Styrofoam: A. Castellano said that it has not been working very well having Tom Rue lead this since he resigned from the Committee, and we should have a

Committee person overseeing this. M. Gunn volunteered to do this, and R. Georgett said she will send an email to help M. Gunn connect with T. Rue and J. Silverthorn.

**AGENDA REVIEW – Batteries and Agenda format.**

- a. Batteries: R. Wolfe said that he would like the committee to consider recycling batteries, and that is fire is a concern there could be a box built far enough away so it would not spread to anything else. He continued that this would facilitate collection of batteries, and E. Johanson said there is a Terra Cycle zero waste box for batteries. A. Castellano said this would need to be purchased. R. Wolfe and E. Johanson both said they have a collection of batteries to contribute and R. Wolfe said the residents may appreciate this. E. Johanson said she would contact Hopewell Twp. to see how they manage their battery recycling, and R. Wolfe said if they have a system in place that East Amwell could “piggyback” off that would be great. R. Georgett said she would research what the County has for battery collection.
- b. R. Georgett said the township has implemented a new standard format for meeting agenda, and that will be used going forward.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – R. Wolfe made a motion that was seconded by S. Kadlec to open to the public present that was carried with no objections or abstentions. Seeing no member of the public step forward, R. Wolfe made a motion that was seconded by S. Kadlec to close to the public present that was carried with no objections or abstentions.**

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES -** The minutes from the December 8, 2020 meeting was put forward and **M. Gunn made a motion that was seconded by S. Kadlec to accept the minutes with minor correction was carried with no objections or abstentions.**

**APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS – M. Gunn made a motion that was seconded by R. Georgett to approve one voucher that was carried with no objections or abstentions.**

**REPORTS -**

**Depot Report/Styrofoam: January 2021** – A. Castellano provided a written report and summarized it saying there was so much Styrofoam that it was difficult to move around in the Foam Palace. She continued saying this needs to be cleared before the next Depot. A. Castellano said the Scouts came again, it was windy and so the doors were kept shut. She continued that this is a good practice for anytime because it may better control those dump things outside Depot hours. A. Castellano said she spoke with Rick and Mark about maybe having the dumpsters dropped off Saturday morning but that could be problematic, and so we’ll continue with Friday delivery. She continued that TREX collection is complete for this group and more than 4,000 lbs. have been collected which is deserving of an article. R. Georgett will assist with this and also ensure there are more Clean Community reusable bags before the next Depot. A. Castellano said the grit yard was open with an average number of trees, and mentioned photos she had taken including garbage that was dumped between Friday afternoon & Saturday morning.

A Castellano said with these problems of dumping and contamination continuing, it would be good to follow up on getting a camera that can catch people doing this. She continued that there is a trash dumpster right there and people could easily use it. A. Castellano asked R. Georgett if we could pay for a camera with Clean Communities funds if it is enforcement. R. Wolfe said he agrees that we should get a camera to report and fine violators to hold them accountable and enforce our littering Ordinance including on township roads. He continued that others with deer cameras may also be able to help with roadside dumping problems. C. Napoleon said there should be a sign placed about this,

and A. Castellano said she will get this done including the cameras that will be installed. A. Castellano will also post this on the website and Facebook which are our major social media resources.

**DEPOT LEAD & GRIT YARD OPENING ASSIGNMENTS**

December 5, 2020	S. Kadlec	Report provided
January 2, 2021	A Castellano	Report provided
January 9, 2021 Grit Yard	A Castellano	NA
February 6, 2021	S. Kadlec	
March 6, 2021	M. Gunn	

**Township Committee Update** – R. Wolfe said they had the reorganization meeting and he was reappointed Mayor and Mark Castellano was appointed Deputy Mayor. He continued that they will continue to explore ways to fund a new Foam Palace including a combination of grants and township funds. R. Georgett said it may be possible to use some clean community funds for this because there are a number of items collected that meet clean community items. R. Wolfe said J. Silverthorn is estimating \$10 - \$12,000 with DPW doing most of the labor including disassembling/disposing of the existing structure. R. Wolfe said the Committee can consider naming a new Foam Palace for Will Harrison who has had a large impact on recycling in East Amwell over three decades. E. Johanson has been contributing for 25 years as well.

**TREX Recycling:** C. Napoleon said we need to look for a new project group, and A. Castellano said she will reach out to the Girl Scouts. She continued that the Boy Scouts did an outstanding job and there is a possibility that they can do another bench in 6 months. There was discussion regarding other groups that may be interested such as churches and the Amwell Valley Trail Association. S. Kadlec asked if the group needed to be in East Amwell, and A. Castellano said we do try to keep it in the Township. C. Napoleon and A. Castellano will work on finding another group and they will start with 81 lbs. being rolled over.

**Municipal Composting:** E. Johanson asked R. Wolfe if Mike Mills had replied to him. R. Wolfe said J. Silverthorn said DEP approval would be needed if it were done on a formal basis. He said that a farmer could offer their composting area to neighbors but establishing a community program could be complicated. R. Georgett asked if R. Wolfe was able to connect with Mike Mills because he had set up a system in New Brunswick and might know more about it. R. Wolfe said he has been corresponding with Mike and will circle back to J. Silverthorn as well. There was discussion that Rutgers in New Brunswick may have different requirements because it’s a state school, and would it be possible to leverage the local Rutgers extension? This topic will be continued for review at the next meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – R. Georgett said they need to follow up on the Cork program and it was tabled to the next meeting. E. Johanson said she will continue to handle corks until then.

**NEW BUSINESS** – A. Castellano said Clean Community Funds should be added to the agenda under Reports, and R. Georgett agreed saying the Township committee want this reported under Recycling. S. Kadlec asked if we had a standard report for the Depot, and A. Castellano said this is in the works with the Township Committee Quarterly report.

**OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE** – S. Kadlec asked if Committee meeting dates for 2021 were confirmed, and it was agreed that the Committee will meet on the first Tuesday each month except

November when there is a conflict with election day. A. Castellano suggested the November meeting be held the second Tuesday, November 9, 2021 and all members agreed.

A Castellano asked what happens at the SWAC (Solid Waste Advisory Committee for Hunterdon County) and R. Georgett said that members from various townships report what's happening in their municipality. R. Georgett continued that there was discussion regarding working across municipalities that would benefit all, be better due to economies of scale, and that this is the committee that would review and approve changes in the County – such as adding a new recycling facility. She said that 2020 was her first year attending meeting, there were only 2 meetings, and not much happened. A. Castellano asked if this was picked up from W. Harrison, and R. Georgett said W. Harrison had stopped attending many years ago because nothing was getting done at the meeting. There is a new SWAC leader at the County who is trying to get this group going again.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by M. Gunn which was seconded by S. Kadlec and carried with no objections or abstentions to adjourn at 8:32 p.m.

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Rosemary Georgett, Recycling Coordinator