

**BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
EAST AMWELL RECREATION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 15, 2018; EAST AMWELL MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 1070 ROUTE 202, RINGOES, NJ**

CALL TO ORDER & OPEN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

The meeting of the East Amwell Recreation Committee was called to order at 7:35 PM by Chairperson Alison Castellano who read the following: In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, it was noted that this is the Reorganization Meeting of the East Amwell Recreation Committee pursuant to the meeting notice published in the December 21, 2017 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. Notice of this meeting was filed in the Township Clerk’s Office, sent to the Hunterdon County Democrat, and the agenda was posted on the municipal bulletin board.

2018 ATTENDANCE

Recreation Committee Member (term expires)	1/18/18	2/15/18	3/15/18	4/19/18	5/17/18	6/21/18	7/19/18	8/16/18	9/20/18	10/18/18	11/15/18	12/20/18
Alison Castellano	X	X										
Mark Gunn	X	X										
Michael Atzert		X										
Pete Fick	X											
Erica Johanson	X											
Chris Kellogg		X										
Thyra Zengel	7:45											
Sandra Gonzalez												
Cassie DeCandia	X											
Peter Miller		X										

Others present: Secretary, Maria Prendamano;

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: No public present.

PRESENTATION OF MEETING MINUTES – January 18, 2018 –M. Prendamano made a correction listing Peter Miller as the Township Liaison instead of Kevin Ostrander. M. Gunn made a motion to approve the minutes that was seconded by C. Kellogg. All members were in favor of approving the minutes with two abstentions from C. Kellogg and M. Atzert.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA A. Castellano wanted to add generic skins for events rather than putting the date on them in an effort to save money. She asked C. Kellogg how many he made last year. He thought it was close to six. A. Castellano also wanted to re-organize the meeting agenda. She sent a sample to M. Prendamano and would like to use it. She also added Township Website.

PRESENTATION OF INVOICES: None

PRESENTATION OF UPDATED RECREATION BUDGET: M. Prendamano did not have a copy of the current temporary budget. P. Miller thought it should stay the same as last year. P. Miller thought it might even be increased in the context of salaries and wages associated with the summer playground. M. Prendamano noted that summer playground is a separate piece of the Recreation budget. P. Miller added that they are trying to codify this committee and looking at all facets of the committee. M. Prendamano noted that there is the senior citizen club, summer playground and the recreation committee. A. Castellano asked who is on the senior club. M. Atzert said we were able to track down a member. M. Gunn asked if there was any oversight of the funds going to the senior club. P. Miller said not at this time.

REPORTS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

South County Soccer – A. Castellano asked for a run down of South County Soccer from C. Kellogg. He stated that they play at several different fields. Their main season is fall soccer. They also play in the spring. In the fall, the number of kids that play is overwhelming to the field area. He speaks, not as a representative but as a parent. It is impossible to get all of the age groups in. Essentially, the younger kids play earlier in the day and the older kids practice ends at nine. The season starts in March.

M. Prendamano noted that we would sign a facilities use form that ran from March through November to cover all practices and camps. They utilize the fields. Last year we were approached by an outside league that wanted to use the fields. We responded that we could not accommodate them. The party was angry and implied that we were giving SCSL preferential treatment. They truly were using the fields every day of the week. In addition, they seed, maintain, line and treat our fields. In the past, she would get a facilities use form in January. To date, she has not heard from anyone. She has reached out to Howard Young and Jaimie Quinn and has not had a response. She knows that P. Fick has attempted to reach out to them.

P. Miller thought perhaps a letter explaining that the fields are first come first serve. M. Atzert stated that it gets tricky because they maintain the fields. He also remembers an adult league came in and there was a lot of opposition since they make an investment in the fields. He added that the communication early suffered. When Regina Skrebel was on the board, communication was very good. C. Kellogg said that the problem is that lights are a commodity. The community often complains about the lights and light pollution. P. Miller stated he is not sure how the lights are controlled. C. Kellogg stated there is a code that releases a key to access a button. The lights at the municipal fields are controlled from the shed.

M. Prendamano noted that Dean Heide stated he was going to have the electric turned on. C. Kellogg also reported that at the school, after a flood, the lights flickered and do not work. It will be a relatively large expense to repair the lights. P. Miller said that J. Silverthorne is getting quotes. A. Castellano stated that J. Silverthorne quoted a price between six and ten thousand. She added that he thought it would be better to convert to LED lighting at the cost of twenty-five thousand dollars. She stated that the current monthly cost is twelve to fifteen hundred per month. She thinks the township will not pay for the lights. She thinks we need to get someone from SCSL. P. Miller feels the best course of action is to continue to get someone from SCSL via correspondence and let them know it is first come first serve. C. Kellogg stated that they will not be able to do what they have been doing in previous years with the lights in their current condition. A. Castellano said they know it hasn't been fixed and the assumption is they will plan their schedule around day light hours. She will reach out to Jamie Quinn. C. Kellogg thought we should have received registration emails at this point already.

M. Atzert asked if they were talking about a decline in registration. C. Kellogg stated that youth recreation is at a transition with parents that want their kids to play travel. The travel team pays for the rest of the league. There are only so many parents willing to donate their time. Kids are involved in multiple sports too. Flemington Raritan Baseball has seen a dip in the last five years. P. Fick thought A. Castellano should find out if it is a go or not.

Baseball – C. Kellogg reported that this time is the lull in baseball. Board members are being assigned. Registration is open. A. Castellano asked how many East Amwell kids play. C. Kellogg replied that there really aren't a lot of other gigs in town. All leagues are hungry for kids.

Clawson Park – A. Castellano noted that she had a conversation with R. Wolf about Clawson Park. She stated that it is kind of like a grey area. This side of Clawson Park is the operational day to day. M. Petrus is on the Friends of Clawson Park, but she feels that she would like a person from the Recreation Committee on the Friends of Clawson Park. She did reach out to him but has not heard back. M. Gunn would like clarification on this. C. Kellogg asked if this includes the building. A.

Castellano stated that the house is part of the Historical Society. M. Atzert added that Mike Petrus was good about attending our meetings. A. Castellano thought the tennis courts and Pickle ball topic ties in with Clawson Park. She spoke to Rick Wolfe about the tennis courts. She added that his opinion is that the Township is not going to pay to rip that up and resurface it. He thinks it could be repaired. M. Prendamano thought that the cracks were level and might be fixable. C. Kellogg thought it was worse than she said. He would be afraid that someone would roll an ankle. He didn't think it was not quite that simple. There was some discussion about the viability of the court. P. Miller asked if we had any numbers with usage. M. Prendamano stated that it is used regularly but there are no records. P. Miller asked about membership to the tennis courts. A. Castellano didn't think there was any kind of standard for that.

Skipped to Bricks for Kids as requested by P. Miller who had to make a departure.

Bricks for Kids – A. Castellano spoke to Jim Brown. She thought it might be more attractive if they could offer an afternoon. Jim Brown is partnering with another company that will run a program in the afternoon once Bricks for Kids is over. Team Kids Camp Adventures will run in the afternoon. A totally non lego camp designed to teach children to think out of the box while playing games in groups. Jim Brown is using all of his employees. Her daughter is going to attend the camp so she will check it out. She would like a representative of our committee there. P. Miller asked what the relationship is with the Recreation Committee. A. Castellano clarified that we are hosting the camp and it is not costing us any money. C. Kellogg stated that his kids have gone and enjoyed the camp. A. Castellano informed everyone that the camp will run over the spring break. P. Miller left at this time. M. Prendamano asked if the kids engage in physical activities. A. Castellano stated they will in fact be moving around. M. Atzert stated that he is going to be flexible with drop off and pick up times. M. Prendamano asked if the program will run in the summer and A. Castellano stated that it would not be offered in the summer.

Bingo – A. Castellano asked to keep this on the agenda. M. Prendamano thought we were going to plan one around PTO's events. M. Atzert stated that we did them in February and they were very successful but at this point we should leave it until the fall.

Circle Line Cruise –She would like to assign this to a committee member. She thought perhaps P. Fick would take it on.

Tennis Courts/Pickle Ball –Discussed previously during this meeting under Clawson Park.

Adult Basketball –A. Castellano thought we should take this off of the agenda. M. Prendamano stated that P. Fick left it on the agenda and would get a report each month. She added that it should remain on the agenda as people may look at it and see that it is an offering. She noted that P. Fick would put it on the VIP occasionally too.

Friday Nights in the Park –A. Castellano stated that somebody needs to own this. M. Prendamano didn't think someone had to own it. M. Atzert added that to own the whole thing would be too daunting. We could get someone to own each event. M. Prendamano stated that we wanted to do July, August and September. M. Atzert said in September is hard because we are competing with the school. M. Prendamano thought early October would be better than September. M. Gunn said we could just do July and August. The committee discussed repeating the same as last year. M. Prendamano added that she does have a singer and S. Gonzales wanted to do the pet show. A. Castellano thought we could run game night with the music night. She thought we could bring glow sticks for the kids. M. Prendamano reminded her that it only runs until dark. A. Castellano asked about the pet show. M. Prendamano explained the concept. M. Atzert said we could always do two game nights as it was a great success. M. Atzert added that the food truck was fantastic.

Kindness Rocks – A. Castellano said that this item can be removed.

Spring Newsletter – M. Gunn asked what this is. M. Prendamano explained. The committee discussed Greenfest. A. Castellano asked about running it concurrently with the Color Run. If they want to have a presence there they would have a lot more people there. M. Prendamano asked if the committee could come up with dates to put in the newsletter. They discussed dates for the Friday Nights in the Park and came up with July 20th. They will also put the camp dates in. A. Castellano thought if we get confirmation that the tennis courts will be fixed that should go in there too.

Egg Hunt – A. Castellano had a child make the flyer. She stated that E. Johanson thought we should add food donations to the flyer. M. Atzert will use the new bins to transport the food to the church. He added that J. Brown should know about the event. M. Prendamano wanted to talk about stuffing the eggs with candy and reaching out to the Girl Scouts. She thought that the township would benefit from a Costco membership card. They have a large selection of candy. C. Kellogg will get the sandwich signs.

NEW BUSINESS – A. Castellano wanted to discuss that she would report anything from the school and PTO. She also informed members of the new committee created for website upgrade and communications improvement. She added that the current website is horrible. She couldn't find the link to subscribe to it because it was so embeded. She also got a run of all of the subscribed email addresses and there were about fifty addressess from Russia. Some really bizzare email addresses have been cleared out. The idea going forward is to have a look at Hopewell's website. It is very nicely laid out. She added that what we have now we cannot switch into that mode yet. C. Kellogg asked if she is a web designer. A. Castellano stated that she can do the front end stuff but cannot code it. The person they have on board, Steve Ippoliti, is a wizard technology guy. He had a conference call with our current web company. Our website is a twenty year old website. Our township paid over four thousand dollars a year to do nothing. The whole idea is to bring it into this century with lots of modern links. She noted that the Recreataion Committee's page is not updatedand thought we should put links to the sports teams.

What we have now we will work with, but the longer term is to get more like the Hopewell environment. She asked members to share ideas and send them to her in an email. M. Prendamano noted that Hopewell did have a nice page. A. Castellano stated that we should have a link to the church on it. M. Atzert asked if you would have a tab for houses of worship. A. Castellano stated yes absolutely.

CORRESPONDENCE – Minutes and Agendas from various committees;

LIAISON REPORTS – FOSPC – A. Castellano asked why this item is on the agenda. M. Atzert explained that some open space is used for recreational activities.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – None present.

ADJOURNMENT

C. Kellogg made a motion to adjourn the meeting that was seconded by M. Gunn, and unanimously approved by all to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 PM.

Maria Prendamano, Secretary

