

**MINUTES  
EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP  
Environmental Commission Business Meeting  
March 26, 2017  
7:30 P.M**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE:**

The March 26, 2018 Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:36 p.m. In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, this is a Regular Business Meeting of the East Amwell Environmental Commission, as published in the Hunterdon County Democrat on March 22, 2018. A copy of tonight’s agenda was filed with the Township Clerk and the Township Committee, forwarded to the Hunterdon County Democrat and Trenton Times Newspaper, distributed to the various East Amwell Township Committees and Boards, and was posted on the Township Bulletin Board.

**ROLL CALL:**

**2018 ATTENDANCE**

Environmental Commission Member	No Meeting	2/26/18	3/26/18	4/23/18	5/28/18	6/25/18	7/23/18	No meeting	9/24/18	10/22/18	11/26/18	No Meeting
Dee Kellogg		X	X									
Joe Angelone		X	X									
Frances Gavigan		X	X									
Tom Rue		X	X									
Patsy Wang-Iverson		X	X									
Lisa Davis		X	X									
James Edwards			X									
Kevin Ostrander (alt. I)												

*Others present: Gail Brewi, David Wang-Iverson*

*Public: Mike Petrus*

**PRESENTATION OF MINUTES:**                      March 26, 2018 Business Meeting

Minutes of February 26, 2018: Motion to approve the draft minutes as amended was made by Frances Gavigan and seconded by Patsy Wang-Iverson. There were none opposed nor any abstentions. Minutes were unanimously approved with corrections.

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**BILLS OF THE EVENING** – There were none.

- Brief discussion was had regarding the handling of bills for approval. Bills will be presented to the Chair or Vice Chair and then presented to commission for approval at the monthly meetings.

**LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS** – Gail Brewi provided to be discussed.

- Raritan Headwaters Buffer Planting
- Stormwater Management Workshop on 3/29
- Letter from HC Department of Public Safety & Public Health re: mosquito control program
- Municipal Stormwater Infrastructure
- ANJEC Grant opportunity – Rocky Brook Trail

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** – Mike Petrus was in attendance to discuss Roadside Cleanup.

- Mike is assisting Ron O'Reilly after Blaine Hummel's' retirement after 30 years of service. Recognition was made to Blaine.
- Mike is seeking volunteers for the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Roadside Clean-up Day on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. Those interested should contact Ron O'Reilly at 908-399-9189.
- A motion was made by Tom Rue and seconded by Joe Angelone to approve the extension of the Township Insurance to the volunteers for the day. There were none opposed nor any abstentions. Extension of Insurance to volunteers for the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Roadside Clean-up was unanimously approved. A motion was made by Frances Gavigan and seconded by Dee Kellogg to close to the public.

**REORGANIZATION** – Gail Brewi updated

- Welcome to James Edwards who was appointed and approved by the Township Committee as a full member. James lives on 111 VanLieu's Road and has lived in the community for 20+ years. James has degrees in environmental and physical geography and cartography and was asked by several residents to consider becoming a member of the environmental commission due to his background.
- Lisa Davis was approved by the Township Committee as a full member.
- The EC is now at full membership with (1) alternate member, Kevin Ostrander.
- A motion was made by Tom Rue and seconded by Patsy Wang-Iverson to nominate Lisa Davis as Vice Chair of the Environmental Commission. No additional nominations were made and therefore nominations closed. Lisa Davis accepted and was unanimously approved without any opposition nor abstentions.

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**REPORTS:**

Financial Report – Gail Brewi updated.

- At this time the commission is operating under a provisional budget.
- ANJEC membership dues have been paid
- Fees to Raritan Headwaters were paid for (2) members to attend Stormwater workshops

AG Advisory - Frances Gavigan updated

- Report was shared based upon the Sourlands Conservancy Deer Control symposium. Specific discussions were had regarding deer management as a means to reduce the population. A potential reclassification of deer as a varmint is being considered.
- A suggestion was made and will be considered with the Recreational Committee to host mini farmer's markets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at the township municipal property.

Planning Board – Frances Gavigan updated.

- Township has now officially combined its' Zoning Board of Adjustment and Planning Board into one Board known as the Planning Board with joint authority and meetings will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.
- The Fair Share Housing settlement is still to be determined and agreement is forthcoming based upon the due date and the 120-day clock. An overlay provision may allow East Amwell to reach the required fair share housing units by allowing adjustments to the master plan for (4) lots in the village through a zoning and ordinance change. Proposed agreement is awaiting final acceptance. The fairness hearing will be held April 19<sup>th</sup> in Somerville.
- David Wang-Iverson stated that there are financial incentives for residents with extra space who are willing to offer accessory apartments; as a means to meeting the obligation. The townships obligation between now and 2025 is based upon 90 affordable units.

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Township Committee – David Wang-Iverson updated.

- Ordinance was adopted for the dissolution of the Zoning Board.
- Ordinance was introduced to establish a website update committee and is expected to be adopted in April.
- Budget was not introduced in March but is expected to be introduced in April
- David Wang-Iverson spoke with the Township Consultant, regarding professional services to help with the Environmental Resource Inventory. Based upon the feedback from the professional a request was made to the township committee for \$500 to cover exploratory professional services. Determination of approval pending.

Recycling Committee – Tom Rue updated.

- April 28<sup>th</sup> is Spring Cleanup in the Township between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. List of acceptable items was reviewed. There may be a limit imposed on the amount of wood which can be managed. An extra truck will be brought in this year based upon success last year.
- Hopewell website will be considered as a model for the East Amwell website; updates to come. All committees are encouraged to look at the site to understand direction the township will head in the future.

Farmland/Open Space Preservation Committee – There was no report provided.

Public Outreach Committee: (P. Wang-Iverson, L. Davis)

- Participation for 2018 will include Hunterdon County Day and Color Run.
- Hunterdon County Day, scheduled for 6-2-18 at the County Fairgrounds
- Color Run: Commission will participate in the EA School PTO run event and take the lead in recruiting prior Green Fest participant for involvement.

Site Review Committee: (J. Angelone, T. Rue) There was no report provided but, discussions as follows.

- Site Plan reviews were discussed based upon information obtained at ANJEC workshops. Site Plan reviews are a mandated responsibility for the Environmental

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Commission however, consultants normally complete them and make recommendations based upon level of expertise required.

Conservation Easements Committee: (P. Wang-Iverson, D. Kellogg, T. Rue)

- Dee Kellogg raised a concern that if easements are tabled for 2018 and site visits are not conducted annually, the township will no longer be able to enforce the easements.
- It was suggested that the commission utilize Google Earth maps to identify and verify the existence of township easements.
- Joe Angelone suggested that a letter be sent to all property owners with a definitive date, and then visits be made by committee members to the 288 properties within the township.
- Easements are documented in each deed and the specific requirements are unique to each property.
- Dee Kellogg expressed that based on the Environmental Commissions' current manpower perhaps both ERI and Easements could be charges of the commission along with public outreach and site review as goals for 2018 however; that would be the max which could be handled.
- Commission agreed to view all identified properties utilizing Google Earth maps and to mail letters to remaining homeowners. Suggestion was made to divide responsibilities and to conduct site visits as necessary for verification and completion of all easements by the end of the calendar year.

Environmental Resources Inventory Committee: (F. Gavigan, L. Davis, J. Edwards) Report provided by Frances Gavigan.

- Lengthy discussions were had after reviewing materials prepared by Frances Gavigan regarding the appropriate use of Commission volunteers and other resources.
- Lisa Davis expressed concern over the enormous undertaking a project of this magnitude would be on the commission. Based upon information obtained and shared at the recent ANJEC workshops; members became aware that one of the commissions charges is to advise and inform the public based on what exists in the regulations concerning the townships natural resources.
- Patsy Wang-Iverson suggested that if funding is granted by Township Committee the consultant should be invited to attend a commission meeting in the future. David Wang-Iverson shared that it was the intent that the funding be utilized to do an evaluation of the state of the current ERI.
- Dee Kellogg supported the suggestion, that the consultant should advise the commission on the scope of the work involved and best practice to proceed with

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updating (legal aspects, land use, etc.) to segregate workable parts within a timeline to achieve.

- Dee Kellogg also spoke about the changing regulations and standards since 1974, and that the township had preserved land in the past with critical habitats existing on private property but, many may now exist on public lands.
- Joe Angelone suggested we request approval to dissect West Amwell's ERI – Frances Gavigan will make the request. Lisa Davis also suggested that many surrounding communities have recently crafted ERI's and the commission should also consider like communities. These reports are all available to the public.
- Lisa Davis suggested that the ERI may be a longer-term EC goal beginning with consulting, establishing a plan and then determining direction of whom needs to handle components (EC vs. experts). Grants should be investigated as a means of funding.
- Once funding is obtained definitive goals with a timeline can be established next month.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Workshops attended were discussed to decide forum for providing tools to members by ANJEC and Raritan Headwaters.
- Well Testing in the township will be offered April 17<sup>th</sup> with cost posted in the VIP and Township newsletter.
- VIP article submitted on the NJ Recovery Tree Campaign. Hunterdon County residents can pick up free trees to plant.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- ANJEC is offering a \$1,500 matching grant opportunity for trail signage and kiosk which could be used for the Rocky Brook Trail. Patsy volunteered to prepare, and Frances Gavigan will attend township committee meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup>. A level of management is required to track in-kind services, etc. Patsy will prepare and manage the grant. Frances Gavigan moved to have Patsy Wang-Iverson prepare, submit, and manage the ANJEC grant proposal for \$1,500 for a kiosk at the Rocky Brook Trail. Joe Angelone seconded. There were none opposed nor any abstentions.
- Raritan Headwaters buffer plantings were discussed by Patsy to communicate to residents. Raritan is very eager to work with townships for grants, etc. Buffer plantings will be handled through public outreach.

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- Tom Rue suggested, and Patsy Wang-Iverson seconded that the Environmental Commission should set a goal to identify desirable grants and opportunities in November of each year for viable grants due the following April.
- Stormwater management seminar will be held 3-29-18 at the Stoneybrook water shed; Patsy Wang-Iverson and David Wang Iverson will be attending. Dee suggested that a separate committee handle. DEP has free licenses
- Opportunity exists for the Environmental Commission to send communication to residents about a topic in the tax bill mailing. Suggestion was made to do ERI and Easements communication. Determination can be made at the next meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Letter from HC Chamber of Commerce – 5<sup>th</sup> Annual HC Community Day, 6/2/18 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This will be participated in by EC. Patsy to handle through the public outreach committee.
- E-Mail from NJDEP – National Trails Day, 6-2-18 – EC to pass on participating based on timeline however, Patsy Wang-Iverson to follow up with Toni Robbi and let commission know if he will handle on behalf of commission.
- E-Mail from NJDEP – Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), Information Session, March 29<sup>th</sup>

**ADJOURNMENT** – Motion to close the meeting made by Tom Rue, seconded by Joe Angelone, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 p.m.

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Gail Brewi  
Environmental Commission Secretary