

MINUTES
EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
Environmental Commission Business Meeting
April 23, 2017
7:30 P.M

CALL TO ORDER:

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE:

The April 23, 2018 Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:33 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	5/30/18	6/25/18	7/23/18	No meeting	9/24/18	10/22/18	11/26/18	No Meeting
Dee Kellogg		X	X	X								
Joe Angelone		X	X	X								
Frances Gavigan		X	X	X								
Tom Rue		X	X	X								
Patsy Wang-Iverson		X	X	X								
Lisa Davis		X	X									
James Edwards			X	X								
Kevin Ostrander (alt. I)												

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

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES: April 23, 2018 Business Meeting

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

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BILLS OF THE EVENING – There were none.

LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS – There were none.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – None Present

REPORTS:

Financial Report – Gail Brewi updated.

- The commission continues to operate under a provisional budget.
- Confirmation was provided that the EC budget will have no inclusion of outside support for review of the Environmental Resource Inventory

AG Advisory - No report provided

Planning Board – Frances Gavigan updated.

- The first meeting of the amended planning board went well.
- An application was heard for a grandfathered property on Stony Brook Road which was recently purchased and approved for an addition. The resolution will be heard at the May meeting.
- Defining of processes coupled with creating and updating checklists to simplify procedures for the board were discussed. Training relating to zoning responsibilities was conducted by the township attorney and was received well. Meeting was productive.

Township Committee – David Wang-Iverson updated.

- The five hundred dollars requested for the ERI review was denied. The mayor decided that any ERI review could be handled under auspices of the planning board.
- It was shared that Don Reilly suggested it might be possible to invite the EC to a June or July planning board meeting to discuss the ERI. However, at this time, priority of outside professional services will be needed for devising a plan for the affordable

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housing element by September. Dee Kellogg commented that **the ERI planning should be considered when doing the COAH planning.**

Recycling Committee – Tom Rue updated.

- April Depot was cold however by Sunday both dumpsters were full.
- There was a question raised to ask if there were cameras on the township property to determine if East Amwell is getting “regional” recycling due to the location. Concern was not identified as a problem since the municipality receives credit for the tonnage.
- Clean up is scheduled for Saturday, April 28th beginning at 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Goodwill will be present and accepts many items such as furniture, bikes, electronics, etc.
- Roadside clean-up appeared to be successful based on social media posts and pictures posted on township bulletin board.

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

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

- Report provided by Lisa Davis, in her absence and was read into the record by Gail Brewi regarding Hunterdon County Community Day status.
- Hunterdon County Day is scheduled for 6-2-18 at the County Fairgrounds. Booth organization has begun. A habitat game and display will be borrowed from ANJEC and a handout will be created and made available for residents. Give-Away items such as small plant seeds can be provided by a local farm, Toad Shade Farms in Frenchtown. Patsy Wang Iverson has spoken with Duke Farms who will donate common milkweed seeds compliments of Duke Farms and Patsy has agreed to also check with Bowman’s Hill for additional donations. There was a discussion regarding the budget for outreach and applicable spending. Dee Kellogg suggested that the committee should determine the viability of spending monies from the budget for seeds and handout reproduction and report back.
- Help is needed to staff the booth and set up.
- Materials which are available downstairs in the EC storage area will be investigated for viability.
- Rocky Brook Trail Kiosk was discussed.

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- NJ Tree Recovery Program is a viable option for East Amwell in 2019 to receive trees for distribution to residents. Can obtain up to 500 trees through the State forestry program.
- Dee suggested that the committee go to NJ DEP on-line and investigate the free brochures which are available to order and have printed for free. The list should be reviewed for brochures of interest to the committee on other topics for the residents.

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

- Joe Angelone sent a letter for review and feedback to committee. Letter to be passed through the Township Committee as correspondence so they are aware and may comment and provide feedback.

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

- Patsy Wang Iverson asked for feedback on distributing easement information to residents through the VIP.
- Joe Angelone will review easement information which falls under the purview of the commission; such as environmental and conservation easements as possible communication for the VIP.
- Dee Kellogg raised a concern that some easements are not related to the charge of the environmental commission and the information communicated should represent only the easements EC is charged with monitoring as language is different across various types of easements.
- Patsy inquired about mapping as there is an interest in mapping rain gardens in the municipality to encourage additional residents' participation. Such programs are available through the township engineer at no cost to the commission.
- Joe Angelone discussed the process and feedback which will be provided after the property easement visits. No reporting will be sent to residents but, instead simply a record kept to document EC compliance. EC is not the enforcing agency. Dee suggested a description of the property easements be sent with the letters, so homeowners are aware of what the commission will be looking for during the property visit.

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

- Frances is attempting to schedule a meeting with West Amwell to discuss further.

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- Various items will be looked at such as storm water education, stream corridor ordinances, annual reports, emerald ash borer, etc. Frances suggested inviting Cathy Urbanski from West Amwell to an EC meeting to discuss and share her experiences.
- Gail Brewi read in to the record from Lisa Davis as follows: NJ DEP has a matching Grant award for ERI's. The deadline is December 1st annually and Lisa has reached out to a contact at DEP and is happy to investigate further if there is interest. More to come.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Tax Bill Mailing - Joe Angelone will draft something for the easements.
- ERI professional services.
- Stormwater as a responsibility of the EC was discussed however stormwater management is believed to be responsibility of the Township Engineer.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Patsy discussed the ANJEC grant and will advise the commission upon receipt of notification on a reward although she is not optimistic. Tim Matthews said the committee will not know until after November if there will be any township funding available. Patsy will reach out to the Boy Scouts to determine if they will still work on kiosk without a grant award; but, possibly as an Eagle Scout project. There are aspects of the project which can proceed without the grant. Girls Scouts can tag trees but, a resource will still be needed to fund the tags themselves.
- Drop Box update from Lisa Davis was read by Gail Brewi. Lisa believes it would be helpful to have resource materials in one space available for all members to view as EC proceeds forward with projects. The suggestion of a business account could be considered for a nominal fee as an option. Dee Kellogg suggested the commission reach out regarding viability for a township e-mail account to share the files as well. Dee will follow up with the township clerk for an e-mail address with a drop box.
- Frances Gavigan discussed the County purchasing the Wertsville Industries, 1200 acres (Higgins Property) which will be owned and managed by NJ Conservation.
- Dee Kellogg stated that deer ratio plans are being discussed by surrounding municipalities to establish viable programs. Perhaps something for EA to consider in the future. If the township committee wants to task the EC with investigating, then the commission can pursue. However, David Wang Iverson stated he believes the AG committee is handling.

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CORRESPONDENCE:

- Resolution #22-18, approved by Township Committee 3-8-18
- E-Mail correspondence 4-10-18, from Raritan Headwaters – follow up materials from seminar on Forests, Deer and Invasives
- Letter dated 4-11-18, from Amwell Valley Trail Association – support for ANJEC grant application.
- E-Mail from EA Clerk, April 14th – Introduction of 2018 Salary & Wage Ordinance
- D&R Greenways Spring 2018 Newsletter

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to close the meeting made by Frances Gavigan, seconded by Patsy Wang Iverson, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m.



Gail Brewi
Environmental Commission Secretary