

**MINUTES  
EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP  
Environmental Commission Business Meeting  
May 30, 2018  
7:30 P.M**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE:**

The May 30, 2018 Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:34 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	X							
Joe Angelone		X	X	X	X							
Frances Gavigan		X	X	X	X							
Tom Rue		X	X	X	X							
Patsy Wang-Iverson		X	X	X	X							
Lisa Davis		X	X									
James Edwards			X	X	X							
Kevin Ostrander (alt. I)												

*Others present: Gail Brewi*

*Public: None*

**PRESENTATION OF MINUTES:**                      May 30, 2018 Business Meeting

Minutes of April 23, 2018: Motion to approve the draft minutes as amended was made by Tom Rue 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.

AG Advisory – Frances Gavigan updated.

- A mini farmers market is being considered, which would be held on the first Saturday of each month through the summer. Frances Gavigan has been asked to investigate the viability. Proposed location is in the township municipal lot during garbage collection. All local farmers and small businesses owners could participate. Anyone interested should reach out to Frances Gavigan.

Planning Board – Frances Gavigan updated.

- Hardship Variance was approved for a triangle lot off Stony Brook Road.
- Request was heard for a reinterpretation based upon zoning denial for the placement of a temporary tent to sell fireworks on a corner property located on Route 202 across from Speedway, in front of the farm stands. Matter was not heard due to lack of proper representation. Application will be heard next week with all parties present.
- Variance request forthcoming for a corner lot of property at the intersection of Route 518/31 for the addition of a 2<sup>nd</sup> story on an existing building.
- Court approved the COAH settlement plan and set a court date of April 19<sup>th</sup> starting the 120-day clock for the township and board to come up with a housing plan element to address the overlay & take elements of the agreement between Fair Share Housing and the Township to incorporate into a document which can be approved and be maintained for the next 7 years. The COAH plan of 128 units obligation in total units would take place in 3 phases and will be accomplished by utilizing a zoning overlay

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of (80) units to achieve the plan. Water and sewage if brought into the township would be the obligation of the developers. The Township does not need to do anything to develop, the burden will be the responsibility of the applicant although the Township will have to contribute in the future to help facilitate through bonding when the time comes.

Township Committee – David Wang-Iverson not in attendance. Frances Gavigan commented.

- Mayor Matthews requested additional details regarding the commissions property site visits for the verification of easements in the township.
- Gail Brewi shared an e-mail from the township clerk also referencing a request from both Mayor Matthews and Deputy Mayor Wolf. The request was for the outreach plan to be a structured proposal providing more specifics, including dates and times for the site visits to the residents and confirmation of the same. Discussion was also had regarding consideration for the time of year, and proper identification of those conducting the inspections.
- Frances shared that David Wang-Iverson did make the township committee members aware that the EC has an obligation to conduct the site visits. It was also shared that Peter Miller asked about the follow up plan based upon the inspection results as well as Stormwater reviews.
- Joe Angelone discussed the process of obtaining badges and the commission agreed to address. Gail Brewi will follow up with the township clerk and provide paperwork and process, so all members may obtain municipal ID badges.
- Joe Angelone volunteered to attend the next TC meeting on Thursday June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Joe will present the township committee with details of the plan and answer any additional questions. Frances Gavigan and Patsy Wang-Iverson will also attend the meeting.
- Dee Kellogg commented that if follow up is requested it should be the responsibility of the zoning official. Stormwater easements are also not the charge of the EC.
- Aerial photography cannot be used in lieu of an actual inspection but can be utilized to prioritize the property inspection plan. The commissions plan will include inspection of conservation easements only. Approximately 1400 deeds were reviewed by the commission and approximately 300 have been identified with having conservation easements which will need inspection.
- Frances Gavigan shared that the EC Secretary, Gail Brewi has come off probationary employment and is now a permanent employee.

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Recycling Committee – Tom Rue updated.

- Clean up day held on April 28<sup>th</sup> was the most successful in four years.
- Recycling Depot scheduled for Saturday per scheduled date

Farmland/Open Space Preservation Committee – Tom Rue updated.

- Hunterdon County Growth and Management Plan – representatives presented to FOSPC the results of a recent survey conducted. The purpose is to determine the spending and allocation of monetary resources for the county park plan. There will be an emphasis in the future on regions bordering the Delaware River.
- East Amwell residents participated in survey. Survey disclosed the following key findings: need for park maintenance, trails, pathways, park amenities, and community events.
- Frances Gavigan stated that East Amwell receives more than 50% of the funding offered for farmland and open space.
- Resurfacing of the township tennis courts was a topic of discussion at FOSPC meeting based on interest from residents.
- Frances Gavigan noted that funding from the Open Space Fund is also being used for the Clawson House.
- Joe Angelone commented about the updating of the above including soccer fields and other amenities which he believes need to be considered for attracting and keeping families in East Amwell. The demise of the Amwell Baseball league was briefly discussed as an example, due to the decline of youth interest in 2007 and 2008 in the township.
- Gail Brewi to distribute the county executive summary to members for review.

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

- Hunterdon County Community Day, June 2<sup>nd</sup> 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Hunterdon County fairgrounds.
- Update provided, location and set-up were discussed, along with the need for volunteers to man the booth. EC and Historical Commission will share booth.
- Patsy Wang-Iverson displayed a Habitat game she was able to get for the event.
- Thanks to Lisa Davis for all her work, making signs and beautiful seed balls from seeds donated by Duke Farms and Bowman's Hill and put together by Lisa. Other expenses incurred personally for outreach should be submitted for reimbursement by Lisa Davis.

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- Based on the denial of the EC application for an ANJEC grant, Patsy Wang-Iverson contacted Anthony Lorenzoni, who advised her that there are currently no boy scouts working on an Eagle Scout award who may be interested in helping with the Rocky Brook Trail Kiosk. A request was also made to Mayor Matthew for funding toward the Kiosk. It will not be known until November if there is extra money in the budget for this project.

Site Review Committee: (J. Angelone, T. Rue)

- No sites to review currently.
- Discussions reflected above under Township Committee report

Conservation Easements Committee: (P. Wang-Iverson, D. Kellogg, J. Angelone)

- Update and discussions covered under Township Committee report

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

- Frances spoke with the chair of the EC at West Amwell and was provided permission to reference the West Amwell model as West Amwell did with Delaware Township. The West Amwell EC was not provided funding from the township committee for their ERI plan but, instead the plan was the work product of their commission.
- Frances suggested that the commission members all take a component and over the next couple of years see what resources can be pulled in to compile a framework for an updated plan for East Amwell.
- Tom Rue asked for clarification about this task being performed through the planning board as communicated last month to the commission. The ERI remains a charge of the EC and professional services of the township planner are not currently available to the commission based upon no allocation of funding.
- Dee expressed concern with utilizing and pulling existing information and resources from various sources. She believes it is a requirement for the township to have and maintain a current plan however, there are no specifics spelled out. A suggestion was made to investigate with ANJEC. The East Amwell plan from 1975 is likely to be stale and require updates.
- Subcommittee of Dee Kellogg, Frances Gavigan, and Lisa Davis re-formed to meet in August to pursue further.

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- Patsy Wang-Iverson reported that Lisa Davis investigated potential ERI Grants and there are none.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Tax Bill Mailing – submission is due Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. Commission will submit information about the conservation easements and upcoming visits.
- Dee Kellogg will follow up on the use of a committee drop box for sharing of documents such as those which may be utilized for the ERI review and framework.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- No new business discussed.
- Next meeting, June 25<sup>th</sup> – Jim Davis will not be in attendance.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- ANJEC Grant Announcement
- E-Mail correspondence 5-23-18, from State of NJ – DOT Grants
- Approved 2018 Salary and Wage Ordinance/Resolution approved May 10, 2018
- E-Mail correspondence from Hunterdon County Planning Board – Information Breakfast, June 15<sup>th</sup> 7:30 a.m.- 9:00 a.m.
- E-Mail from EA Clerk, 5-18-18 – New Jersey League of Municipalities re: Fraudulent E-Mail
- E-Mail from EA Clerk, 5-14-18, from Township Committee re: Conservation Easement Letter June 28<sup>th</sup> 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- E-Mail correspondence 5-4-18, from Plan-It GEO – Tree Mapping Technology Workshop,
- Sourland Journal, Spring 2018

**ADJOURNMENT** – Motion to close the meeting made by Frances Gavigan, seconded by Joe Angelone, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

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Gail Brewi  
Environmental Commission Secretary