

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
RECYCLING COMMITTEE MINUTES
BUSINESS MEETING
August 14, 2018 - TUESDAY, 7:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER AND STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Recycling Committee was called to order at 7:33 PM on August 14, 2018 in the Small Meeting Room of the Municipal Building, 1070 Route 202/31, Ringoes, NJ by W. Harrison.

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, this was a regularly scheduled meeting pursuant to the Annual Meeting Notice as published in the January 18, 2018 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. A copy of the agenda was forwarded to the Hunterdon County Democrat, filed in the Township Clerk’s Office, and posted on the Bulletin Board on August 7, 2018.

2018 ATTENDANCE

Recycling Committee Member	1/9/18	2/13/18	3/13/18	4/10/18	5/8/18	6/12/18	7/10/18	8/14/18	9/11/18	10/9/18	11/13/18	12/11/18
Will Harrison	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	X				
Alison Castellano	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Ron O’Reilly		X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Erica Johanson	X	A	X	X*	X*	X	E	E				
Tom Rue	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Mark Gunn		X	X	X	X	E	X	X				
Kevin Ostrander		X	A	X	X	E	A	A				

Others present: Coordinator, Rosemary Georgett,

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – With no members of the public present, M. Gunn made a motion that was seconded by T. Rue to close to the public. It was unanimously carried with no objection or abstention.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES - The minutes from the July 10, 2018 meeting were put forward and R. O’Reilly made a motion that was seconded by M. Gunn to accept the minutes with edit showing the meeting was called order by A. Castellano. It was unanimously carried with no objection or abstention.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA –

- VI.B.1. – Updated contact information for RVD, the organization that provides dumpsters for Depot.
- X.B. - Crayon recycling program.

REPORTS -

Youth Report: O. Ostrander was not present to report.

Depot Report: August 2018 – R. O’Reilly provided a written report. There was discussion regarding overlap between the Recycling Committee and Environmental Commission. A. Castellano expressed surprise that the paper recycling was only 1/8th full and R. O’Reilly stated that others came after the Depot closed because it was full by Monday. No VIPs were distributed. VIPs can be obtained from the red box near the Post Office in Ringoes. W. Harrison volunteered to manage the Depot in November 2018 and January 2019.

RVD – Jen is East Amwell Township contact and can be reached at 9098-730-5756. Our Account number is 3-0865-0108289, only our RVD liaison Charlene Santo should contact them unless there is an immediate emergency that can't wait until she is in the office.

DEPOT LEAD ASSIGNMENTS

July 7, 2018	E. Johanson	Reported at July 10 th meeting
August 4, 2018	R. O'Reilly	Reported at August 14 th meeting
September 1, 2018	M. Gunn	
October 6, 2018	T. Rue	
November 3, 2018	W. Harrison	
December 1, 2018	TBD	
January 5, 2019	W. Harrison (tentative)	

Township Committee Update: K. Ostrander was not present to report.

Environmental Commission Report: T. Rue said the Environmental Commission (EC) discussed the new bill that was proposed in New Jersey assembly about the usage of plastic bags, and agreed they did not agree with it for a number of reasons including allowing thicker plastic bags, the minimal fee cost for using them, and \$0.01 of each bag going to markets which seems a reward and is not given now. The EC is looking for stronger regulations, they feel it is a weak Bill and sent a letter to Governor Murphy recommending he not approve the bill and instead have a bill that would reduce plastic bags all around. T. Rue distributed copy of the letter. He continued that the bill restricted the ability of a municipality to improve on or adopt stricter requirements when many New Jersey communities already have tougher restrictions or have banned the use of plastic bags. There was discussion regarding the TREX program for plastic bag collection being launched, and further discussion was deferred to that agenda item under New Business.

T. Rue also said Lisa Davis brought up that there is a “Sustainability New Jersey” grant opportunity given for performing environmentally friendly acts, easement inventory – which we are doing - and funds received could be applied toward sustainability and environmental issues. This includes Depot related costs and potential items that are currently not eligible under the Clean Community Grant. There was discussion regarding overlap with Clean Communities Grant funds, and it was agreed that these environmental funds could be complimentary. T. Rue said there is a requirement that you reach 150 points to achieve certification under the program, and municipalities are required to establish a Green Committee. A. Castellano said that a Green Committee is in the process of being established for East Amwell Township.

T. Rue said that the letter for easements has been approved, and easements are part of the points that you earn for the New Jersey State Environmental grant.

Tonnage Report – trending 2015 thru 2017: R. Georgett said that the Committee had asked for a trending report on Tonnage covering the past few year. She continued that the top items on the report was fairly consistent over these years, items including concrete/asphalt/brick, Newspaper, Other Paper/Magazines/Junk Mail, etc. R. Georgett explained that the Township receives reports from end markets that collect and process items from East Amwell indicating the tonnage based on categories identified by the State of New Jersey. A. Castellano asked how we get a tonnage number associated

with magazines and junk mail from a “dumpster dump” like from our Depot. R. Georgett explained there is a “mixed use” category on the tonnage report and when markets report this, the State has a formula that breaks it down into varied categories for reporting purposes. W. Harrison further explained that at the collection sites, there are both sorting & pro-ration of items collected.

W. Harrison asked for the data and trends, and R. Georgett shared the following data:

Total tonnage:

2015 – 3,026 and funds received were \$3,283.20

2016 – 5892 (94% increase) and funds received were \$1,852.50

2017 – 7824 (32.7% increase) and funds received were \$4,101.33

There was discussion regarding the large increases from year to year, and what might be driving this. The funding has varied greatly and did not following the upward trending collection. W. Harrison said that the funding varies because we receive a portion of a limited pot of funds that changes from year to year. There was continued discussion regarding how mixed use recyclables are tracked, and methods used for this. T. Rue asked what the source of the data is, and R. Georgett confirmed it is the end market naming some of the sources in the report. There was discussion regarding why the tonnage numbers have changed and that the heaviest items are biggest source, also a large local project would have an impact.

R. O’Reilly suggested it would be helpful to have the information in table form. W. Harrison asked R. Georgett to prepare a summary report and send it to the Committee. He also said that he has a video of around seven minutes showing the process used to separate mixed use items that the committee could view. T. Rue showed an article in Resource Recycling Magazine about a state of the art recycling plant in Grand Rapids Michigan that does quantitative evaluations, removes contaminants, etc. There was further discussion regarding what New Jersey is doing to sort/separate items and overall how this process can work in a state of the art environment.

W. Harrison asked for an update report on Tonnage as trends emerge and at least annually. He continued that the Resource Recycling Magazines would be available at Recycling Committee meetings for review and R. Georgett said they’re available at any time in the Township office as well.

OLD BUSINESS -

Styrofoam: M. Gunn indicated he put a number of bags in during the last depot and there is quite a bit accumulated. T. Rue said he will take care of it.

Township Website: A. Castellano said this Friday is the cutoff for any new content added to our website will not pull over to the new website. She continued that after this the committee designees, likely the chair and secretary, will be responsible for updating information on the website, and they will be trained on how to do this. W. Harrison asked if we will be ready in August to connect a laptop in the small conference room, and A. Castellano said yes and the wifi is set up as well.

A Castellano also explained that new committee/board email addresses that will be established, and those on the respective committee to receive emails will be determined. This will enable residents to contact the committee directly, and reduce the need for staff members to forward information around and committee members to use their person email for Township activities. W. Harrison approved Recycling@EastAmwellTownship.com. This new process will also enable residents to receive specific committee updates through a “notify me” capability.

Spring Clean-up Day Rules: W. Harrison provided a written document with updated Spring Clean-up Day Guidelines for review by the committee. He also shared a sample sign-up sheet that can be used. A. Castellano asked if we charge more for large trucks, and W. Harrison said we need to recommend updates to the Ordinance. The updates should include how we handle large trucks with a

trailer as well as tires for which we charge \$2.00. Add as agenda item for the next meeting to discuss the Ordinance updates.

R. O'Reilly asked if we can pick a date for next year's Clean-up Day now, and W. Harrison said we typically choose the fourth Saturday in April which allows the Environmental Commission Road Side Clean Up to have their event first. It also avoids Easter weekend.

Recycling Volunteer List: W. Harrison distributed a list of volunteers from 2014 and a cover email from May 2017 asking committee members to contact volunteers to find out if they wish to remain on the list. A. Castellano confirmed it was primarily volunteering for Depot and Spring Clean-Up. R. Georgett had a volunteer list with email addresses, and will send this list along with volunteers for each committee member to contact. M. Gunn will replace Maria. Committee members are to complete their assigned contact by the September Recycling Meeting.

Community Education campaign for proper recycling: R. Georgett provided background information regarding this topic and that it stemmed from the NJ DEP letter in May regarding Municipal Recycling Challenges. A. Castellano said doing something in support of the Color Run we can do immediately. T. Rue said that he had researched Fairlawn, NJ and they have a very extensive program including a department committed to Recycling. A. Castellano said our new website will have the opportunity to do more, and T. Rue agreed we will have more capabilities so it's now a matter of deciding what to do. There was discussion regarding doing something now & more later but ensuring we don't take on too much.

It was agreed that focusing on what we can do for Color Run is the priority for this meeting. A. Castellano said she can't run Recycling Committee activities for Color Run. Ideas were shared regarding what we can do. A. Castellano said we can join another committee who will have a table or have our own table and use Clean Communities Grant funds to purchase something as a prize to give away. T. Rue will be present for Environmental Commission, and E. Johanson has volunteered to organize something for the Recycling Committee. R. Georgett will provide support to purchase the giveaway. A. Castellano confirmed the Color Run is September 29, 2018 and the committee agreed to allocate funds for this.

M. Gunn made a motion that was seconded by T. Rue to provide up to \$300 from Clean Communities Grant funds for a Color Run give away. It was unanimously carried with no objection or abstention.

East Amwell Township School Environmental items to donate: W. Harrison asked about the recommendations provided, and A. Castellano said the costs seem a little high for some items. She continued that one item needed is new blue recycling bins at \$25 each for 12 classrooms, and another item needed is a pack of 8 clear bins to use for terra-cycle collection.

T. Rue made a motion that was seconded by M. Gunn to provide \$300 for the purchase of 12 recycling bins for the East Amwell Township School classrooms. It was unanimously carried with no objection or abstention.

R. O'Reilly made a motion that was seconded by T. Rue to provide \$135 for the purchase of an 8 pack of clear tubs to be used for terra-cycle collection by the East Amwell Township School. It was unanimously carried with no objection or abstention.

R. Georgett will order these items through Amazon.

Review Status of Meeting 2018 Goals: Tabled to September Recycling Committee meeting

INVOICES: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

NEW BUSINESS:

TREX Plastic Bag Program: W. Harrison said this it is a great program already under way, and his only concern is that it didn't start with or include Recycling Committee before it got going to ensure everyone is on the same page. There was discussion regarding why this happened. A. Castellano said that the Environmental Commission wanted to purchase the Rocky Hill Trail Bench which requires 500 pounds of plastic bags. She continued that the Environmental Commission will run the program until their goal to receive the bench, and then program management can shift to Recycling Committee or it can be discontinued.

T. Rue said we will need to incorporate it into the Depot, and A. Castellano will ask Patsy Wang-Iverson to obtain another TREX box for Depot use. A. Castellano listed some items we have not been able to collect through Terra-Cycle that can be used for TREX such as – animal feed bags, bubble wrap, etc. - and items which we collect through Terra-Cycle to be removed from TREX collection such as cereal bags. There was discussion regarding Depot staff being responsible for making sure that appropriate items are put into the TREX box. It was agreed that the Depot will not sort TREX items, only make the TREX box available to collect items. Individuals dropping off items need to review the list of TREX items, and the Environmental Commission will be responsible for sorting them. E. Johanson will be the liaison and help coordinate during Depot.

W. Harrison asked if the Township Committee has approved this, and A. Castellano said yes. It was agreed that it is a great program and will create some confusion that we can work through. M. Gunn made a motion and T. Rue seconded to officially endorse the TREX Plastic Bag Program recommended by Patsy Wang-Iverson and approved by the Township Committee and to assist by collecting at the Depot. It unanimously carried with no objection or abstention.

Crayon Recycling: A. Castellano explained Crayola has a program where all used markers (not pens or crayons) can be collected and sent to Crayola with free shipping for recycling. She continued that we could collect these markers at the Depot and volunteered to bring them to the school. A. Castellano continued that crayon recycling is managed by different organization called The Crayon Initiative, and they collect the crayons but it is not free shipping. She explained the program started when it's founder discovered that restaurants throw away crayons provided to children after initial use. A. Castellano continued that restaurants need to collect the used crayons themselves, and suggested that our youth members can visit local chain restaurants like Applebee's regarding participation and to get the used crayons from them. The Recycling Committee can cover shipping costs through Clean Communities Grant funds according to R. Georgett. W. Harrison suggested we hold further discussion on this for the next meeting and said that he will not be present at the September meeting, neither will R. Georgett.

OPEN TO PUBLIC: No public was present.

OPEN TO COMMITTEE – A. Castellano said that E. Johanson collects corks & CDs, and is paying the postage for sending CDs to the organization that recycles them. R. Georgett agreed that we can cover these postage costs under the Clean Communities Grant, and if items are brought to the Township office, she will coordinate postage and ensure it is the charged to the Clean Communities Grant. W. Harrison said we can approve the amounts at Recycling Committee meetings, as either reimbursement or direct payment.

A Castellano suggested everyone watch the Township Committee video as a point of interest because there was a resolution to acknowledge children from the school, who were present wearing their tee-shirts, for their contributions to Recycling and Environmental issues.

ADJOURNMENT

M. Gunn made a motion which was seconded by T. Rue and carried unanimously to adjourn at 9:22 p.m.

Rosemary Georgett, Recycling Coordinator

CC: Rec. Com. Members
Recreation Com.
Environmental Com.

Board of Health
Planning Board Zoning
Twp. Bulletin Board

Twp. Committee & Clerk
Board of Adjustment
Farmland/Open Space Preservation