

**MINUTES
EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
Environmental Commission Business Meeting
August 27, 2018
7:30 P.M**

CALL TO ORDER:

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE:

The August 27, 2018 Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:39 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:

**ATTENDANCE:
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	8/27/18	9/24/18	10/22/18	11/26/18	No Meeting
Dee Kellogg		X	X	X	X	X						
Joe Angelone		X	X	X	X	7:45	X					
Frances Gavigan		X	X	X	X	X		X				
Tom Rue		X	X	X	X		X	X				
Patsy Wang-Iverson		X	X	X	X	X		X				
Lisa Davis		X	X			X	X	X				
James Edwards			X	X	X							
Kevin Ostrander (alt. I)							X					

*Others present: Gail Brewi, (Patsy Wang-Iverson was present via phone)
Public: None*

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES: June 25, 2018 & July 23, 2018 Business Meeting

Minutes of June 25, 2018 and July 23, 2018: Motion to carry approval of the draft minutes was made by Lisa Davis and seconded by Frances Gavigan due to an insufficient number of eligible voting members in attendance for approval of either meeting.

BILLS OF THE EVENING – Request was made by Patsy Wang-Iverson to approve payment of a Staples bill in the amount of \$29.89 for copies for the TREX Program. Motion to approve \$29.89 for Staples bill was made by Frances Gavigan and seconded by Lisa Davis. Monies were unanimously approved with none opposed.

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- Patsy Wang-Iverson inquired about the \$125.00 the EC approved in July toward the cost of the sign for the trail head of the Rocky Brook Trail. L. Davis stated that the money has been allocated and once the total amount required for signage is approved by the Township Committee production of the sign should be authorized and the bill submitted for payment. P. Wang Iverson expects the Township Committee to approve the full amount (\$222.00) at their next meeting in September. DPW will be installing the sign.

LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS – G. Brewi provided.

- Application for Use Variance at Block 42 Lot 12.01
- Information regarding Jersey Friendly Yard Conference, October 20, 2018
- ANJEC Congress

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - None Present.

REPORTS:

Financial Report – G. Brewi updated.

- Year to date through July 31, 2018 the commission has spent 51% of the payroll budget and 55% of the budget allocated for all other expenses which includes meetings and conferences.
- Upon submission of the remaining previously approved expenses; reimbursement to L. Davis (estimated \$150.00), signage for Rocky Brook Trail, and Staples the 2018 budget for non-payroll expenses will be depleted.
- All future conferences and/or meetings need to be at the expense of the individual commission member if there is a cost associated.
- Members reiterated that a comprehensive budget plan will need to be prepared to request additional funding for 2019 to meet commissions charge.

AG Advisory - F. Gavigan updated.

- There was not enough interest for an East Amwell Farmers' Market, coupled with a

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concern about oversaturation and possibly negatively effecting existing locally run farmers markets for this initiative to be implemented at the East Amwell monthly depot. This may be re-looked at for feasibility for 2019 if there is further interest.

Planning Board – F. Gavigan updated.

- Toni Robbi was at the monthly meeting and reminded the planning board that the Environmental Commission has a site plan obligation however, it was not triggered for the bulk variance approval granted for the proposed project located at Rt. 518 & 31. Applicant has been granted a use variance based on hardship for a commercial space (2 stores) with apartments above (including a COAH unit). Site plan approval is pending. F. Gavigan investigated back to 2008 and provided all parties with the information, which the Environmental Commission at the time provided and visited the site herself. The planning board process moving forward is being looked at and the protocol will be corrected. Prior approvals should also be obtained by the Historical Committee which will be corrected. F. Gavigan has requested that a physical address also be provided on applications. F. Gavigan will follow up with the Administrator and provide any update for further action by the commission. The process should be initiated by the Planning Board Administrator, who will provide applications for variances to the Environmental Commission and Historical Committee for review and site visits. Environmental Commission Site Review Committee consists of F. Gavigan, J. Angelone. & D. Kellogg.
- Stormwater Training has been completed by J. Angelone and F. Gavigan. The training is relevant to the commissions' site plan reviews and easement responsibilities. F. Gavigan to follow up and report back whether there is any certification document to be signed by the members.

Township Committee – P. Wang-Iverson updated.

- An Ordinance, written by Deputy Mayor, Rick Wolfe was introduced at the August Township Committee meeting for the establishment of a “Green Team” in East Amwell Township. The Township Committee is expected to adopt the ordinance at the September meeting. Sustainable NJ requires an ordinance for a “Green Team” to exist. L. Davis and T. Rue expressed a need clarification over how the initiative will be implemented and overseen once established. P. Wang-Iverson suggested that the proposed ordinance be read by the Environmental Commission members and further discussions could be held regarding the process and initiatives. P. Wang-Iverson commented that in some communities the Green Team is the Environmental Commission but, it is up to the Township Committee to determine that direction. It was suggested that it is important for members across committees in the township be members of the “Green Team”. P. Wang-Iverson attended the August Township

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Committee meeting and suggested that moving forward more Environmental Commission members should attend Township Committee meetings. P. Wang-Iverson and L. Davis to discuss further. The next Township Committee meeting will be held September 13th., F. Gavigan shared the next Planning Board will be September 12th.

Public Outreach Committee – L. Davis updated.

- L. Davis discussed Color Run, scheduled for Saturday, September 29th. The feedback from Katherine Fullerton is that the response from Green Vendors and committees has been good. The Environmental Commission is ready to go with materials and attendance by members to man the table. L. Davis will follow up for with Alison Castellano, PTO President, for direction and specific communication regarding the event. P. Wang-Iverson shared that the Environmental Commission will be providing free native plantings to residents based on donations received from Bowman’s Hill and others. F. Gavigan has volunteered to donate blackberry bushes

Recycling Committee – T. Rue updated.

- TREX Program specifics and direction for collection at the Township Depot; held the 1st. Saturday of each month; was discussed to understand best practices and put a policy in place to be implemented monthly for the collection of the plastic bags. T. Rue reminded the commission that the TREX Program is being implemented by both the Environmental and Recycling Committees, so it was suggested that a consistent plan for collection and delivery be put in place. P. Wang-Iverson shared that to promote the program flyers have been provided for distribution to residents, the township website has been updated, and boxes placed in the municipal building and library. P. Wang-Iverson has committed to picking up the 1st 500 lbs. for delivery but alternate arrangements will be made for the subsequent deliveries. Contact has been made with local businesses who are also collecting so that the Township collection can be sent with theirs providing a win for both groups. P. Wang-Iverson clarified the following specific plastics can be collected: “stretchy” plastic wrapping from large toilet paper packaging, paper towel wrapping, and dry-cleaning bags are all considered “stretchy” plastic. There is a flexible 6-month time frame to achieve the goal.
- T. Rue shared another new initiative which will include the recycling of Crayons and Markers. The initiative will be to collect, recycle and make new crayons and markers. More to come after the September Recycling meeting.
- The recycling committee will be using some of its’ money to purchase new recycling bins for the classrooms in East Amwell Elementary School.
- Color Run, September 29th has been an ongoing topic of conversation.

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- T. Rue reported that plastics were up slightly but, have been very low nationwide and mixed paper is at rock bottom nationwide. The Chinese will be placing a 25% tariff on all recycling due to the current State of Affairs. There has been an on-going issue with the contaminated recycling the U.S. is providing. Recyclables need to be washed for acceptance. Contaminated recyclables will continue to be an issue. F. Gavigan spoke about the refusal of electronics from the U.S. as well. L. Davis commented on the difficulties of recycling not only in residential communities but, in commercial entities.

Farmland/Open Space Preservation Committee – T. Rue updated.

- No meeting this past month and therefore nothing to report.

Site Review Committee – F. Gavigan updated.

- COAH discussions continue. Public hearing will be in September and recommendations to Township Committee made.
- Housing Plan Element and Fair Share Plan dated August 8, 2018 was shared. F. Gavigan will keep Environmental Commission updated.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- P. Wang-Iverson submitted an article about the TREX Program for the next VIP issue to be published in September. Members should provide any viable articles or suggestions for the next issue for the September meeting.
- Stormwater Conference, September 26th 8:30–12:00, in Pennington. P. Wang Iverson, F. Gavigan, and T. Rue are interested in attending. G. Brewi to register Commission members as there is no cost to attendees.
- ANJEC Environmental Congress, Friday, October 12th 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Mercer County Community College. P. Wang Iverson is interested in attending and will enroll and pay fee independently.
- Jersey-Friendly Yard Conference, October 20th, P. Wang Iverson is interested in attending. G. Brewi to gauge commission interest and register appropriate members.
- T. Rue commented that he conducted further investigations about easements and

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questioned the criteria that the Environmental Commission will be looking for when easement visits are conducted in the fall. He referred specifically to his property and again raised concern about the Environmental Commissions' planned visits to Township residents. F. Gavigan referenced the Municipal Land Use Law and committed to look further into his easement and get back to T. Rue.

NEW BUSINESS:

- No new business discussed.
- Next meeting to be held September 24th at 7:30 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- L. Davis updated the commission regarding prior correspondence sent to Senator Turner and shared that Governor Murphy did veto the plastic bag bill in NJ.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to close the meeting made by L. Davis, seconded by T. Rue, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

Gail Brewi
Environmental Commission Secretary