

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
RECYCLING COMMITTEE MINUTES
BUSINESS MEETING
September 11, 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 7:32 PM on September 11, 2018 in the Small Meeting Room of the Municipal Building, 1070 Route 202/31, Ringoes, NJ by Pamela Dymek, Deputy Clerk.

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 September 4, 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	E			
Alison Castellano	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Ron O’Reilly		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Erica Johanson	X	A	X	X*	X*	X	E	E	X*			
Tom Rue	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Mark Gunn		X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X			
Kevin Ostrander		X	A	X	X	E	A	A	X			

*Others present: Pamela Dymek, Deputy Clerk/Registrar, Youth Members, Olivia Ostrander, * Erica Johanson by Speaker Phone, Coordinator, Rosemary Georgett was excused.*

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – With no members of the public present, A. Castellano made a motion that was seconded by R. O’Reilly to close to the public. It was unanimously carried with no objection or abstention.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES - The minutes from the August 14, 2018 meeting were put forward and R. O’Reilly made a motion that was seconded by M. Gunn to accept the minutes. It was unanimously carried with no objection or abstention.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – A. Castellano added additions under NEW BUSINESS - Green Team and the TREX Plastic Bag Program.

REPORTS -

Youth Report: O. Ostrander reported the East Amwell Schools cafeteria has a new painted recycling box. The box separates and sorts chip bags, bottles, and other Terra-Cycle items. This was an art project from last year and the box was previously located in the school foyer.

Depot Report: September 2018 – M. Gunn provided a written report. He mentioned it was a slow day. There were 58 cars and no commercial vehicles. There were a lot of Terra-Cycle items. A lot of plastic was dropped off. Two TREX boxes and a large plastic bag were filled with plastic. The glass and plastic dumpster was 10 to 15% full. The paper and cardboard dumpster was 30 to 40% full. When M. Gunn went back on Monday the paper dumpster was full and a little bit of paper was in the

overflow, into the glass and plastic dumpster. The glass and plastic was only 30 to 40% full. M. Gunn mentioned that when he went to close the Grit Yard and this is the second time a resident was coming in just as he was closing the gate. The sign says the hours are 6am to 2pm. The resident questioned why the Grit Yard was closing. A. Castellano asked if the hours are 6am to 2pm on weekdays and the first Saturday of the month is only open during the Depot. T. Rue suggested that a sign should be posted at the Grit Yard during the Saturday Depot. A. Castellano remarked that the sign posted should be amended. It was decided that a permanent sign should be posted including the Saturday hours during the Depot. K. Ostrander will talk with the Township Committee and contact J. Silverthorn about the confusion of the posted hours on the sign at the Grit Yard.

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	Reported at September 11 th meeting
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 had nothing to report.

Environmental Commission Report: T. Rue stated a letter vetoing the plastic bag bill was sent to the Governor.

On Tuesday after the Depot T. Rue stuffed more plastic bags into the two TREX boxes and brought them to the Municipal building for pickup. He also filled four bags with Styrofoam. A TREX box process needs to be decided on.

OLD BUSINESS -

Styrofoam: see report under Environmental Commission Report

Township Website: A. Castellano updated that the contract with the current company, City Connections ends this Thursday. The new website will not be up and running until October and you will not see a difference. A. Castellano showed a picture of the home page for the new website. Steve Ipolitto has been working closely with City Connections and Civic Plus to make sure everything is coming together.

Update of Ordinance – Depot charge for Truck, Tire: Motion to move to the next meeting when W. Harrison is present. E. Johanson mentioned that we are undercharging for Spring Clean-Up Day. A. Castellano said the charge of thirty five dollars is the same for a pickup truck and a pickup truck with a trailer. There should be another level of charging for residents with a pickup truck with a trailer and those who only come with a pickup truck.

Recycling Volunteer List: A. Castellano asked if anyone saw her email and if anyone sent out their emails or contacted any volunteers. She sent out her emails. Andrea Bonette responded and signed up for two days. A. Castellano explained how to forward the email to the list of volunteers. When you

send the email to your list of residents for volunteering at the Depot please include the link for the signup sheet. The link goes to a site called the Sign Up Genius. We want to encourage residents to sign up on the link for a particular day.

Community Education campaign for proper recycling: A. Castellano said the Color Run event is postponed until May 4, 2019. K. Fullerton will be reaching out to everyone associated with Green Fest. A. Castellano said the decision was made to postpone the event because the time frame was too tight. Children are just getting acclimated to the new school year. All of the sponsors that were on board for September will roll over to the spring event. The notice that Color Run was postponed did go out on all the various Facebook pages around town. The Color Run give away bags were delivered and E. Johanson will store them in a sealed container in the Municipal basement.

Mrs. Ernst, fifth grade teacher at the school will manage the crayon and marker recycling. A. Castellano pointed out that Mrs. Zengel, sixth grade teacher is enthusiastic about her class being more responsible with recycling and will become actively involved. The teachers want to raise awareness about recycling and the human footprint and what effect you're having on the earth. P. Dymek asked about the recycling of the crayons and markers. A. Castellano said there are two programs. Crayola takes any brand marker or highlighter and provides free shipping for recycling. Crayon Initiative collects donated crayons and does not provide free shipping. It was agreed at the last meeting that the shipping of the crayons will be paid by the Clean Communities grant money. Crayons will be collected at the school. P. Dymek asked what they do with the crayons. A. Castellano responded that the crayons are melted and remanufactured into new crayons and sent to Pediatric Hospitals. A. Castellano will talk with Mrs. Zengel about contacting the chain restaurants in the area who hand out crayons to children while dining to sign up for this program. Once the program is up and running at the school A. Castellano will put a flyer together for handouts at the Depot. E. Johanson responded that this is a great idea.

Review Status of Meeting 2018 Goals: Tabled to the next meeting.

INVOICES: The Amazon invoice was not approved. A. Castellano stated only four of the twelve recycling bins ordered from Amazon have been received. Each blue recycling bin was boxed in an individual cardboard box. All of the clear bins were received. Pamela Dymek sent an email to Amazon on the order. A. Castellano will check with Mrs. Ernst, teacher at East Amwell School on the status of the bins.

CORRESPONDENCE: R. O'Reilly read the New York Times Article and said it was very interesting. A. Castellano read the Green Chip Electronic Waste Solution letter which is a laptop recycling program. This company pays you for the recycling of laptops. A. Castellano prefers recycling laptops at the school through the Terra-Cycle Program.

NEW BUSINESS: Green Team and the TRES Program. E. Johanson sent an email to P. Wang-Iverson suggesting we need to work out the logistics of the program. E. Johanson goes to McCaffertys grocery store that accepts Terra-Cycle every Saturday. She suggested that P. Wang-Iverson can weigh the material and she will collect and transport the recyclables. E. Johanson also mentioned that the TRES box recycling is going very well and we should have the bench for the Rocky Hill Trail within the next two months. A. Castellano said approximately one hundred pounds of plastic has been collected to date.

A. Castellano remarked that the principal at East Amwell School has concerns about housing the TRES box. The principal is concerned that people from the outside may stop by the school to drop off their plastic bags. A. Castellano will stop by the school and speak with the principal about the TRES box. She feels the box will only be for school families. The TRES box would be placed in the secure area in the foyer alongside the Terra-Cycle box.

A flyer will be sent to all the families with information about the Terra-Cycle, TREX, and crayon and marker recycling programs. Mrs. Ernst has concerns that recyclables may get mixed up with Terra-Cycle items and she would have to sort them in the classroom. A. Castellano said we are trying to keep the recycling programs separate. One program will be done in conjunction with the Township rather than it being a school project. Otherwise Mrs. Ernst will end up with all the recyclables being brought to her classroom. T. Rue asked if the flyer could include a clear definition on the types of bags that can be recycled. E. Johanson explained the types of plastic bags that are accepted and that the flyer is very informative. Clear plastic animal food bags can also be recycled for the TREX program. For more information on the TREX recycling go to their website. T. Rue asked who is going to sort the recyclables. E. Johanson agreed to work out the details and report her solutions.

OPEN TO PUBLIC: No public was present.

OPEN TO COMMITTEE – K. Ostrander asked if a Depot head was needed for November or December. He will fill in one more time, whichever month is available.

T. Rue passed around paperwork from the FOSPC meeting on possible sites for Farmland Preservation. The Thompson land on Back Brook Road is a strong possibility.

T. Rue presented a recycling packet that West Amwell mailed to their residents. E. Johanson suggested reaching out to West Amwell for a shared service for recycling. T. Rue commented that we need to start catching up with other municipalities that are ahead of us in recycling. There are major issues now and recycling is not going well in this country. He pointed out that the recyclables are contaminated and should be rinsed. He would like to discuss this topic at a future meeting. A. Castellano said a change of educational material needs to be done. E. Johanson asked if T. Rue had time to reach out to the West Amwell Recycling Committee to see how their program works.

ADJOURNMENT R. O'Reilly made a motion which was seconded by M. Gunn and carried unanimously to adjourn at 8:16 p.m.

Pamela Dymek, Deputy Clerk/Registrar

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