

CALL TO ORDER:

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE:

The September 24, 2018 Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:31 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			X			
Joe Angelone		X	X	X	X	7:45	X		X			
Frances Gavigan		X	X	X	X	X		X	X			
Tom Rue		X	X	X	X		X	X	X			
Patsy Wang-Iverson		X	X	X	X	X		X	X			
Lisa Davis		X	X			X	X	X	X			
James Edwards			X	X	X				X			
Kevin Ostrander (alt. I)							X					

*Others present: Gail Brewi
Public: None*

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES:

June 25, 2018 Business Meeting
July 23, 2018 Business Meeting
August 27, 2018 Business Meeting

Minutes of June 25, 2018: Motion to approve the draft minutes was made by L. Davis and seconded by P. Wang-Iverson. There were none opposed, T. Rue and J. Edwards abstained. Minutes were unanimously approved with no corrections.

Minutes of July 23, 2018: Motion to carry approval of the draft minutes was made by L. Davis and seconded by P. Wang-Iverson due to an insufficient number of eligible voting members in attendance for approval of the minutes from this meeting.

Minutes of August 27, 2018: Motion to approve the draft minutes was made by T. Rue and seconded by P. Wang-Iverson. There were none opposed, J. Angelone and J. Edwards abstained. Minutes were unanimously approved with no corrections.

BILLS OF THE EVENING – There were none.

- L. Davis to submit personal expenses remaining for reimbursement
- Members were reminded to obtain a purchase order prior to any future purchases for which reimbursement from EC is being requested.

LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS – P. Wang-Iverson updated.

- Restaurants for Tomorrow workshop at Princeton University, 9-17-18
- Green Infrastructure as a Stormwater Management Strategy, Chris Obropta (organized by ANJEC), 9-20-18

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - None Present.

REPORTS:

Financial Report – G. Brewi updated.

- Year to date through August 31, 2018 the commission has spent 63% of the payroll budget and 59% of the budget allocated for all other expenses.
- However, based on monies encumbered there is no money left other than payroll for the remainder of 2018.

AG Advisory - No Report Provided.

Planning Board – F. Gavigan updated.

- The public hearing was held for the Fair Share Housing plan agreed to during settlement. The plan has now been provided to the Township Committee for their review and is expected to be returned to the Planning Board for finalization at the October meeting and then provided to the Township Planner for completion and submission to the State.
- F. Gavigan reminded the Planning Board group and sought to clarify that the Environmental Commission had reviewed the application for a bulk variance for the project located at Rt. 518 & 31. The applicant has been granted a use variance based on hardship and will be back before the board with proposed site plans for approval.
- The Planning Board process relative to sharing of variance applications has been discussed and moving forward the protocol will be corrected. The process should be

initiated by the Planning Board Administrator, who will provide variance applications and site plans to the Environmental Commission and Historical Committee for review and site visits. G. Brewi will follow up with the Administrator for confirmation of the process and report back to the commission.

- P. Wang-Iverson stated that she requested the draft planning board minutes from September and has not received them to date therefore; she was seeking clarification on what information will be provided and the timing of the same. L. Davis also asked for clarification to understand if variance site plans for variance applications received by the planning board will be shared moving forward and what the protocol will be for site visits and reporting of the Environmental Commissions' opinions will be. F. Gavigan stated that the Environmental members should have access to information as supported by the MLUL, Municipal Land Use Law but, it does not obligate the commission to review every application nor does it qualify the opinion of the commission. It was expressed to be a concern of the commission that the applications will not be provided to the Environmental Commission for a site review in a timely manner to investigate and provide feedback to the Planning Board. D. Kellogg reminded the group that if the commission does not choose, due to the nature of the application, to comment on an application that the same is reported back to the Planning Board. T. Rue commented that the Environmental Commissions' Site Review Committee should be conducting site visits, preparing a position and the same should be provided to the Planning Board. J. Angelone expressed that the issue was simply due to the new staff and believes it will be corrected moving forward. F. Gavigan further stated that since East Amwell now has a combined board the complexity has changed, and the history of prior procedures has been lost. D. Kellogg added that in the past a copy of site plan and variance application was received and distributed to the Environmental Commission site review committee to conduct a site visit.
- F. Gavigan noted that variance applications need to be tracked. Perhaps if many are issued in a similar area the township zoning may need to be revisited. MLUL, Municipal Land Use Law, allows a checklist for township environmental commissions to provide input and be provided tools. The same guidance and tools were provided at the recent ANJEC meeting.
- P. Wang-Iverson inquired about the Environmental Resource Inventory and was seeking clarification on the obligation of the Environmental Commission as it relates to a township ERI, Environmental Resource Inventory. Some interpreted that C. Norman, the township attorney, stated there was no obligation by the township to have an ERI, Environmental Resource Inventory. It was interpreted to mean that if you have an ERI, Environmental Resource Inventory, it may be used however, an ERI, Environmental Resource Inventory is not necessary. The determination of the same is one to be made by the Planning Board.
 - o D. Kellogg clarified that the ERI, Environmental Resource Inventory is supposed to be a baseline to provide the township a way to manage and regulate the Environmental Resource Inventory. J. Angelone shared an example to show that the ERI, Environmental Resource Inventory is not to regulate but, to be used as a tool when an application is received by the Planning Board. The current tool is from 1979 and should be updated.

- F. Gavigan commented that as part of the Master Plan and Open Space review that parts and elements within the 1979 ERI, Environmental Resource Inventory have been updated.
- L. Davis expressed an ongoing concern over the question, what are the legal requirements? P. Wang-Iverson has been looking into the requirement and it was also a topic discussed during the ANJEC training L. Davis attended in March of this year. The MLUL, Municipal Land Use Law, says that when an environmental commission has an ERI, Environmental Resource Inventory, their township Planning Board is legally required to consult the Environmental Commission on site plans. It is a condition of the requirement of the Planning Board. Concern was expressed that as a legal condition which by necessity the Environmental Commission should be consulted, it is important to meet this condition which is legally binding although with no enforcement or legal consequences. J. Angelone stated that if the planning board meets their legal obligation to provide site plans and the Environmental Commission provides an opinion in a consulting capacity all obligations are met.
- The Environmental Impact Statement identified on applications was briefly discussed. D. Kellogg clarified for members that this statement is a federal program under NEPA, the National Environmental Policy Act and therefore the township ordinances have no bearing. J. Angelone clarified that there is an environmental statement for all projects and it is just a matter of the scope of the project and whom is making the statement; developer or otherwise.
- G. Brewi asked for clarification regarding the Stormwater Training and necessary Certification requirements for any members who completed. F. Gavigan created a document based on completion to track individual(s) certification and will provide the same to J. Angelone for his use. G. Brewi to resend link to members for review and completion by those members interested. P. Wang Iverson attended the workshop and completed certification. She stated that although the township is Tier B it would be nice to go beyond the minimal requirements and as many township personnel as possible achieve the certification.

Township Committee – D. Wang-Iverson not in attendance

- No report provided

Recycling Committee – T. Rue updated.

- T. Rue stated that the committee is still updating its volunteer list for the depot and that the next depot is October 6th. P. Wang-Iverson will pick up plastics from depot for weighing and storage.
- TREX Program specifics and direction for collection during the Township Depot on

Saturdays still needs to be worked out. T. Rue suggested that a systematic process needs to be established. P. Wang-Iverson agreed to attend the next recycling meeting on October 9th to discuss and share information. T. Rue to confirm with P. Wang-Iverson after discussing with Recycling Chair. P. Wang-Iverson also shared that the Tractor Supply Company in Flemington provided East Amwell township with a pallet of plastics which weighed 171 pounds. The township has attained over 50% of its' goal to date and collected a total of 258.2 pounds of plastics. The total includes 80 lbs. of plastics collected by the community since the program was implemented the beginning of August.

- There are designated TREX pick up and drop of locations in nearby communities. Including McCaffrey's Supermarket, Acme, Whole Foods and Kohl's (who has been uncooperative and difficult to work with as they have no storage and no prior notification of pick up time). Its' a win-win situation for businesses as they obtain a credit for being a designated drop off, their garbage is decreased, and plastics are being taken out of the waste stream.
- The Environmental Commission will collect the first 500 pounds and earn a bench for the Rocky Brook Trail. J. Silverthorn, Superintendent of the Department of Public Works for the township has agreed to install the bench. Other township committees could continue the TREXX program by spearheading collections in increments of 500 lbs. to earn additional benches earmarked for other specific locations throughout the township.
- P. Wang-Iverson will propose to the Township Committee the potential of purchasing cloth tote bags which could be provided as an incentive to residents for bringing their plastics to the township municipal building for recycling.
- J. Angelone inquired about looking into Wakefern Foods, corporate parent of ShopRite as another potential source with plastic recycling programs. He will provide P. Wang-Iverson with a contact.
- It was mentioned that the EA Elementary School principal was concerned about having a TREXX collection box located inside the school entrance due to security concerns.

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

- \$22,000 has been allocated to the township this year to be utilized for open space. T. Rue stated that the focus seemed to be on river sites and therefore the larger funding dollars were allocated to sites along the Delaware River. Further discussions were had regarding the various components for which the land could be used for.
 - Discussions were had suggesting the annual use of funding be allocated to redoing the township tennis courts. The estimated cost associated with repairing the (2) the township tennis courts is \$100,000 and when repairs are completed the facilities would be multipurpose allowing for other activities such as basketball. F. Gavigan noted that she recalled there would be a consideration of the economic realities and what the best use of funds for the community would be. She sited an example of spending some money for rain gardens at the ice-skating rink. J. Angelone expressed a concern over not supporting such improvements

since there has been a loss of residents in the township and declining ability to attract enough families to rebound without facilities for recreation.

Public Outreach Committee – L. Davis updated.

- Color Run was rescheduled to May 4, 2019.
- L. Davis expressed an issue with the event being postponed and inquired about exposure for the Environmental Commission for the fall or winter of 2018. It was noted that if anyone has ideas to share to let the subcommittee know. D. Kellogg stated that the commission moved away from involvement at the Hunterdon County 4H Fair because we were not reaching East Amwell residents and they are the commissions' target.

Site Review Committee – J. Angelone reported no update at this time.

Easements Committee – J. Angelone reported no update at this time.

- P. Wang-Iverson stated that there would be an article in the VIP
- F. Gavigan discussed her conservation tax map and easements discussed with township planner. Believes there is an exercise which can be completed. D. Kellogg stated that there are maps and descriptions of the easements. Currently we are waiting for a depository for storage of the information. Frances requested the cd for downloading into an assessible format. Stated that the planning bard could benefit from the information. J. Angelone suggested that we wait for a drop box which will be assessible for all. D. will get information to clerk and Frances can pick up.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Block 24 Lot 8.01 – application for 63 Manner Road, the site of an old nursery in the township, was made by Evergreen Environmental to the State of NJ to restore the wetlands on the property for submission into a wetland bank. Old parts of the roadway would be dug up and restored back into wetlands if application was approved.
- The township website was mentioned, and it was shared that the township website now has YouTube and the Township Committee meetings can be viewed.
- Sustainable NJ or the “Green Team” was discussed. P. Wang-Iverson shared that an ordinance was passed by the township committee to form a green team advisory committee. D. Kellogg inquired if there was a representative from the EC on the advisory committee. P. Wang-Iverson expressed that the township committee must decide how it is going to proceed next. The Township Committee has until June 2019 to draft a proposal and submit activities to achieve or earn bronze status. L. Davis updated the

group that P. Wang-Iverson spoke at the township committee meeting and provided details, activities, and deadlines for the scope of work and what is required to earn certification. The green team advisory committee remains an open discussion regarding who its' members will be. Grants through Sustainable NJ will no longer be accessible to the Environmental Commission since the commission will not be earning the certification. J. Angelone suggested that the environmental commission should provide (2) candidates for consideration to membership of the green team advisory committee. There are similar charges between the committees and it was expressed that the two may be competing for resources. Open applications for grant money cannot be made to Sustainable NJ. Therefore, the ERI, Environmental Resource Inventory could not benefit from grant money from this source. P. Wang-Iverson and L. Davis were asked to consider being suggested as members. L. Davis wants to personally focus her energies on the ERI, Environmental Resource Inventory and declined. P. Wang-Iverson believes that the township committee will be soliciting the members. J. Angelone will volunteer to being considered as part of the Green Team Advisory Committee for the township. P. Wang-Iverson spoke with Sustainable NJ who stated that the green team ordinance as written is acceptable. F. Gavigan stated that to get money awarded for preservation a municipality must have an AG Advisory Committee, who based on history has not been involved with preservation. F. Gavigan also expressed that FOSPC has been powerful and far reaching and a driver in her opinion with properties such as Cider Mill Reserve and the Higgins properties.

- L. Davis discussed her conversation with Jennifer Coffey, Executive Director of ANJEC and the townships environmental commissions' need to complete an ERI, Environmental Resource Inventory and coordination with site review. DYI approach to ERI, Environmental Resource Inventory or NRI, Natural Resource Inventory – pilot project. Currently L. Davis is not sure of what would be entailed but help identifying resources is available. P. Wang-Iverson suggested changing to NRI, Natural Resource Inventory but, L. Davis shared that ERI, Environmental Resource Inventory is a contemporary term and NRI, Natural Resource Inventory is a broader concept of the environment. F. Gavigan also stated an opinion from a farmer's view. D. Kellogg suggested that a motion be made to allow L. Davis the authority to respond to ANJEC in favor of participating in the pilot program for a DYI for NRI, a motion was made by P. Wang-Iverson and seconded by J. Angelone. There were none opposed. Approval to proceed with ANJEC pilot program was unanimous.
- Rocky Brook Trail project – P. Wang-Iverson updated that the purchase order was sent out for all the signage. There will be East Amwell Township historic signs at the Rocky Brook Trail head, and by the Mill Dam. The final cost to Environmental Commission will be \$120.00 not \$125.00.

NEW BUSINESS:

- State of New Jersey added (2) new compounds to their environmental sampling list for

residential wells - PFNA which will be accompanied by two additional polyfluorinated compounds by the end of the year. D. Kellogg informed the commission that residential transactions in houses with wells will be required to sample for this and each test costs \$300. If a well test is positive the cost to fix the system is \$5,000. D. Kellogg is not sure if the volunteer fire dept has trained using these PFOS foams. The State is looking for 13 parts per trillion. PFNA is a chemical used to make plastics more flexible. The other two which will be added - PFOS foam which is used in firefighting applications and PFOA will be added which is in products like – Scotchgarde, Teflon, waterproof & sweat proof consumer products, so there is significant potential that it has gotten onto the East Amwell septic systems which means it could have gotten into the wells. So far, no testing has been done in East Amwell for this, but if it has gotten into the septic systems and it not naturally filtered out, the bugs don't eat, and the chemicals don't break down in the water so the chances of finding it are higher than other chemicals. It is mandatory during property transactions; when houses are sold. Has been identified in a couple of New Jersey sites located in South Jersey. Google - ATSDR, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and get the toxicology information on a YouTube video

- G. Brewi reminded the commission that the November meeting will be the last for the year. Commission goals, objectives and budget should be established prior to year-end.
- L. Davis wanted to ask the commission to look at a new ordinance being proposed in Hopewell Borough to ban plastic bags in response to the issue of a reusable bag fee. L. Davis will attend the next meeting and keep all informed. P. Wang-Iverson stated that Lambertville did ban plastic bags. It was believed that East Amwell is not in a position due to size of the municipality to ban. P. Wang-Iverson wants to have further discussion about a county wide approach which may be better for the small individual towns.
- Restaurants for Tomorrow workshop, P. Wang-Iverson updated. DEP has a sustainability program where business and townships can register themselves as sustainable and get recognized. The question posed "How do you convince restaurants to get rid of Styrofoam" by having the county offer to purchase to reduce the cost of paper containers and get rid of Styrofoam. As citizens it was suggested that one should say "no straw" when ordering. P. Wang-Iverson also shared that Sustainable Princeton is a large entity and they do many things but, one shared was providing residents with compost pails. The question posed is how do we reach East Amwell residents effectively? L. Davis agreed that a county wide approach would be most effective.
- Green Infrastructure as Stormwater Management, Chris Obropta, P. Wang-Iverson updated. Chris talked about porous asphalt and applications for variances. If you have a property that filters water and a structure is placed on the property it still needs to filter. The trade-off should be that porous asphalt and drainage ditches be enforced for these new driveways. F. Gavigan discussed and suggested that all view the driveway Ann DelCampo put in on her property. The driveway is totally porous but, was extremely expensive to put in. P. Wang-Iverson clarified that the porous asphalt is not expensive however the rocks required underneath to absorb under the surface are costly.
- Next meeting to be held October 22th at 7:30 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- E-Mail Communication dated 9-11-18, Katherine Fullerton re: Rescheduling of Color Run to May 4, 2019
- E-Mail Communication dated 9-6-18, Watershed Institute re: Trip on the Delaware “SPLASH”, Saturday, September 22, 2108
- E-Mail Communication dated 9-4-18, Krista Parsons re: Township Planning Board, September Agenda and August Draft Minutes
- E-Mail Communication dated 9-4-18, Katherine Fullerton re: FOSPC, September Agenda and June Draft Minutes
- E-Mail Communication dated 9-1-18, Patsy Wang-Iverson re: East Amwell Township Website.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to close the meeting made by P. Wang-Iverson, seconded by T. Rue, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

Gail Brewi

Gail Brewi
Environmental Commission Secretary