

MINUTES
EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
Environmental Commission Business Meeting
October 22, 2018
7:30 P.M

CALL TO ORDER:

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE:

The October 22, 2018 Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:30 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	X		
Joe Angelone		X	X	X	X	7:45	X		X	X		
Frances Gavigan		X	X	X	X	X		X	X			
Tom Rue		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		
Patsy Wang-Iverson		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		
Lisa Davis		X	X			X	X	X	X	X		
James Edwards			X	X	X				X			
Kevin Ostrander (alt. I)							X			X		

*Others present: Gail Brewi
Township Committee Liaison: David Wang-Iverson*

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES: July 23, 2018 Business Meeting
September 24, 2018 Business Meeting

Minutes of July 23, 2018: Motion to approve the draft minutes was made by L. Davis and seconded by T. Rue. There were none opposed, P. Wang-Iverson and D. Kellogg abstained. Minutes were unanimously approved with no corrections.

Minutes of September 24, 2018: Motion to approve the draft minutes was made by T. Rue and seconded by L. Davis. There were none opposed, K. Ostrander abstained. Minutes were unanimously approved with minor edits from P. Wang-Iverson.

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BILLS OF THE EVENING – There were none.

- L. Davis submitted receipts from FedEx Office of personal expenses for reimbursement as previously approved by the commission.

LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS – P. Wang-Iverson provided.

- Discussion of minutes/agenda
- Sustainable Jersey Roots for Rivers Restoration Grant
- Letter dated 9-24-18, NJ DEP re: Block 41 Lot 8 Flood Hazard Permit and Freshwater Wetlands application.
- Letter dated 10-19-19, PSE&G re: Application for Freshwater Wetlands Permit

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – No Comments.

REPORTS:

Financial Report – G. Brewi updated.

- Year to date through October 2, 2018 the commission has spent 66% of the payroll budget and 76% of the budget allocated for all other expenses. Additional part time hours were used in the prior month for communications and requests surrounding the launch of the new township website.
- Commission received a request from member F. Gavigan for a digital copy of the audio for all meetings for 2018. D. Wang-Iverson questioned the obligation of the commission to provide the audio. D. Kellogg asked if this request should be elevated to the Township Committee as the request is labor intensive to provide a copy of all audio and may put the commission over budget. *K. Ostrander to speak directly with the requestor to further investigate.*

Committee Liaison Reports:

AG Advisory - No Report Provided.

Planning Board – No Report Provided.

Township Committee – G. Brewi updated.

- The Township Clerk, Terri Stahl provided notice that she will be out on medical leave. K. Ostrander stated that the clerk will be out for approximately two months. The intent is to keep the activities and required functions, OPRA request, various licenses, etc. within

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the pool of current employees. Goal is to maintain consistent coverage for township functions and the municipal township building hours. Current East Amwell employees have agreed to help as needed in the clerks' absence so there is no change for the residents.

Recycling Committee – T. Rue updated.

- T. Rue stated that the recent recycling depot had an attendance of 87 people. Cardboard & paper collection was overflowing with plastics collection at 65-70% full. Styrofoam collection was minimal, and TerraCycle was overflowing. TerraCycle collection filled (8) 13-gallon bags and the TREX boxes were full.
- Continuation of the TREX program will be discussed at the next monthly recycling meeting. Volunteers, Patsy and Erica were commended for the fabulous job which has been done to date managing the collection. The TREX collection required is labor intensive. P. Wang-Iverson reported that by November 13th she anticipates the goal of 500 lbs. will be reached. Upon reporting of the 500 pounds to TREX, it will take 2-3 weeks for delivery of the bench to the township. DPW will install the bench and signage once a mutually agreeable time is decided between Jason Silverthorn, P. Wang-Iverson, and John Allen. J. Allen will also advise of the location for the historic Mill Dam site for signage. However, this will require getting across the stream and the water has been too high. Execution will be a two-step process – installing signage first and then the bench; which will need to be secured as there is concern about theft. Due to a memorandum of understanding permission will be required by DEP to install the bench.
- Commission considered all bench color options offered and voted on the color for the bench. J. Angelone, T. Rue, and D. Kellogg voted Sand Castle, and L. Davis, and K. Ostrander voted Forest Green but, agreed they would also go with Sand Castle. Therefore, Sand Castle was chosen as the color choice for the first free bench to be installed at the Rocky Brook Trail. It was suggested that Forest Green should be chosen for the next bench earned by the Township.
- P. Wang-Iverson suggested that the TREX program was initially labor intensive however, once the group was able to drop larger loads at the Newtown Acme and Kohl's in Flemington the process was expedited. There were (3) volunteers who picked up, sorted, and volunteered their time. *Conversation will continue off line to determine the next East Amwell Township group or committee to facilitate collection of the next 500 lbs.*
- T. Rue discussed the quantity of contaminated recycling collected at the depot. He believes the recycling committee needs to better educate residents of what is collectible and how to recycle. He discussed examples of educational materials from other townships. P. Wang-Iverson provided an informational brochure from Princeton for reference and provided to T. Rue. J. Angelone suggested that a large consideration is the vendor used by the municipality, as they dictate collection list and conditions based on their acceptance.
- P. Wang-Iverson raised a concern about the use of Styrofoam lunch trays used in the East Amwell Township Elementary School. Plastics are being taken out of the waste stream through good efforts and initiatives and the township school is placing them back

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through use of the lunch trays. L. Davis suggested that the use of the Styrofoam tray is due to current contracts. K. Ostrander agreed that it does not look good for a Township. J. Angelone suggested that the school would need to include the elimination of Styrofoam lunch trays and green initiatives the next time the contract was put out for bid by the school board. T. Rue expressed that what is really needed is State Legislation to ban in the State of NJ, the use of Styrofoam and plastics to support these types of initiatives in local schools.

Farmland/Open Space Preservation Committee – T. Rue provided no report at this time.

Sub Committee Reports:

Public Outreach Committee – L. Davis updated.

- Next outreach event – Color Run will be held May 4, 2019.
- Website overview was provided by Alison Castellano at the Township Committee meeting. Each Township committee will need a contact, to maintain updates and/or volunteer to post content as decided by the individual committees to their web page. F. Gavigan has offered to handle for the environmental commission. K. Ostrander clarified that the committee secretaries/administrators will be contact for each committee page and there will be a content person to manage the information. All are invited to the Launch party, Thursday, October 25th. Training will be offered soon.
- L. Davis expressed that the commission should consider the handling of the Environmental Commission web page as the responsibility of this subcommittee. *Committee Chair, D. Kellogg asked members to think about specific content each would like to see on the Environmental Commission page and to come prepared to discuss at the November meeting.* K. Ostrander shared the web page will allow surveys and will offer many new capabilities in the future. P. Wang-Iverson suggested that the environmental committee budget should account for the time necessary to manage the web page as changes and updates were managed in the past by the municipal clerk.

Site Review Committee – J. Angelone reported.

- Block 41 Lot 8, 341 Route 31, application to replace septic system received from the Department of Environmental Protection is a courtesy and no action required by the Environmental Commission for this application.
- PSE&G, general permit application regarding wetlands along rights-of-way, no action required based on the scope of work. K. Ostrander inquired about the commissions input regarding applications from utility companies. D. Kellogg shared that the Environmental Commission last provided input for consideration on utility application for the Thompson property on Route 31 to Dutch Lane due to the significant wetlands involved and input was provided to the Township Committee.
- Block 24 Lot 8.01, update was provided regarding the remediation project at the DeGoia Farm located at 63Manners Road. An application was made to the State of NJ by the

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property owners to restore the property allowing it to be added to the NJ State wetland mitigation bank and allow owners to sell the back credits as needed elsewhere in the State. Completion required the owners to remove an asphalt driveway, bring in appropriate soils, and native plantings. It was noted that there did not seem to be an appropriate driveway plan implemented to prohibit the tracking of dirt onto Manners Road, but Soil Conservation was on site and approved and therefore no action to be taken by the commission or Township.

- It was discussed that the Environmental Commission conducts courtesy reviews of applications and provides input for consideration. Although the reports are not binding, they should be conducted in conjunction with the Board of Health and Planning Board. Administratively it was suggested that all applications continue to be provided to the Environmental Commission simultaneously upon receipt. It was clarified that the information provided by the commission is not duplication but, provides additional considerations. The Environmental Commission reviews impervious coverage, canopy coverage, environmental easements, riparian buffers and items other boards are not considering and therefore, not having these reviews puts the Township at risk. L. Davis reiterated that the Municipal Land Use Law specifies that the board shall make available by law the information and therefore objects to a copy of the application being provided to the commission only as a courtesy. Commission Chair, D. Kellogg confirmed that the Environmental Commission requests to be copied on all applications received and all members agreed with the approach.

ERI Committee – L. Davis reported.

- Jennifer Coffey, Executive Director at ANJEC was contacted and it was communicated that the East Amwell Environmental Commission is interested in participating in the pilot project for Environmental Resource Inventory / Natural Resource Inventory. ANJEC responded, confirmed interest, and updated that there will be no news until the end of this year however, it was shared that both Highland Trust and Rowan University are interested in contributing to support the program in NJ and small municipalities. ANJEC has also applied for grants to support the pilot program.
- The ERI committee of L. Davis, F. Gavigan, and D. Kellogg will establish a subcommittee meeting soon to begin discussions and look at work already complied by member, F. Gavigan.
- The Township Environmental Commission is on ANJEC's radar for the grant and their enthusiasm to participate was communicated.
- Digital Mapping was also discussed, and it was suggested that resources such as the Department of Environmental Protection, existing water and watershed mapping be reviewed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- The Sustainable New Jersey Green Team was discussed. K. Ostrander suggested that *any*

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member interested in participating from the commission should complete a Citizen Leadership Application and submit the completed application to the Township Committee. J. Angelone expressed interest in being part of the Township Green Team. There will be (7) regular members and can be an unlimited number of youth member (ages 10 yrs. old to 18 yrs. old) appointments per the ordinance. It should be noted the youth members will not be voting members. There has been no call to action to date by the Township Committee. It was discussed that there is a timeframe to complete the certification for 2019.

- *P. Wang-Iverson will provide an article by the end of the week for the upcoming VIP edition. A TREX update and article will be submitted for the December issue since timing will be good with the volume of Holiday packages and wrapping.*

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussion was had regarding the correspondence received from the Arbor Consulting Group regarding GPS Technology and Software. Commission decided such software would be more relevant in cities and not applicable or worth the allocation of budget monies for 2019. *Response to Arbor Consulting will be sent by G. Brewi.*
- Environmental Commission goals and projected budget for 2019 were discussed. *Budget from last year will be provided to members by G. Brewi for consideration and draft planning.* The November meeting will be the last Environmental Commission meeting held in 2018.
- Status of the Environmental Commission membership was reviewed as follows: J. Angelone & P. Wang-Iverson terms run through 2019. L. Davis, J. Edwards, and F. Gavigan have (2) years remaining. D. Kellogg and T. Rue both have terms which expire this year-end 2018. T. Rue has expressed to the municipal clerk a willingness to serve another term. D. Kellogg will not be able to serve another term but, has expressed a willingness to help as a community volunteer with the ERI/NRI project.
- The large continuing initiatives for 2019 were reviewed in order of importance as follows: 1) Public Outreach - to include the launch of the Township website, 2) Site Review 3) Environmental Resource Inventory - which the commission wants to take on 4) Conservation Easements - which if not evaluated on a regular basis the easements cannot be enforced in the Township. D. Kellogg has provided a disk to the Environmental Secretary which consists of a copy of all deeds and easements as they were last updated. The information on disk will be available at the municipal office in commission file for reference. J. Angelone suggested leaving the additional fourth initiative and he will strive to accomplish.
- A map of the conservation easements was mentioned by *P. Wang-Iverson, she will forward to all members for review.*
- Environmental Commission minutes and agenda discussion was had whereby P. Wang-Iverson requested that the minutes and agenda be provided within (2) weeks after the monthly meeting. Action items will be called out in some way so minutes can be utilized as an action list for members. However, it was decided that (2) weeks after the meeting to finalize the next agenda is too early and the agenda will continue to be provided once

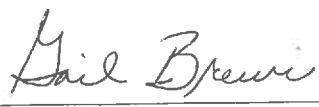
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- published for noticing purposes.
- Sustainable Jersey Roots for Rivers Restoration Grant - P. Wang-Iverson shared information because there are upcoming activities and options for points to be earned toward certification for the Township Green Team.
 - Invitation to the 4th Annual Green Tie Gala, to be held Thursday, November 8th from the NJ League of Conservation Voters was extended to commission members.
 - Municipal Clerk provided a reminder that the commission has housekeeping in the basement office which should be addressed. *J. Angelone to coordinate* - Saturday, December 1st at 8:00 a.m. tentatively planned for basement clean-up.
 - ANJEC dues for 2019 are expected to increase so Commission Chair asked for amount to be obtained for budgeting purposes. *L. Davis to follow up and provide. P. Wang-Iverson to advise commission the amount she spent out of pocket in 2018*, so that can also be anticipated for the 2019 educational conferences budget.
 - Next meeting to be held November 26th at 7:30 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- E-Mail Communication dated 9-26-18, Alison Castellano re: New East Amwell Township Website – Training and Administration
- E-Mail Communication dated 9-28-18, Steven Zohn, Arbor Consulting Group, LLC. re: GIS & GPS Tree Mapping
- E-Mail Communication dated 9-28-18, Watershed Institute re: Upcoming Activities
- E-Mail Communication dated 9-28-18, Patsy Wang-Iverson re: article from NJ.com Ban Bags & Straws? NJ Proposal would be the strictest in the nation.
- E-Mail Communication dated 10-2-18, Katherine Fullerton re: EA FOSPC, October Agenda and September Draft Minutes
- E-Mail Communication dated 10-2-18, Krista Parsons re: EA Planning Board, October Agenda and September Draft Minutes
- E-Mail Communication dated 10-10-18, The Watershed Institute re: Thank you for attendance at Stormwater Utilities Conference and Upcoming Conference November 2nd.
- E-Mail Communication dated 10-12-18, Pam Dymek re: PSE&G Application for Freshwater Wetlands Letter of Interpretation – Line Verification.
- 2018 Benefits Resolution #23-18 revised 9/13/18
- Invitation for 4th Annual Green Tie Gala, hosted by NJ League of Conservative Voters, Thursday, November 8, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to close the meeting made by J. Angelone, seconded by L. Davis, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m.



Gail Brewi
Environmental Commission Secretary