

MINUTES

**East Amwell Township Environmental Commission
Business Meeting
March 22, 2010
7:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER: The March 22, 2010 Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairperson, S. Parsons at 7:33 PM.

In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, S. Parsons announced that this is the Regular Business Meeting of the Environmental Commission, as published in the Hunterdon County Democrat on January 28, 2010. A copy of tonight's agenda was filed with the Township Clerk and the Township Committee, forwarded to the Hunterdon County Democrat, and the Trenton Times Newspaper, distributed to the various East Amwell Township Committees and Boards, and was posted on the Township Bulletin Board.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: S. Parsons, M. Petrus, D. Sageser, D. Kellogg, T. Robbi, J. Angelone, E. Feinberg, K. Hanntz, J. Corboy (Secretary)

ABSENT: F. Clair, L. Lewis, T. Martin, B. Hummel, K. Haney

ANNOUNCEMENTS: No announcements were made.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES: February 22, 2010 – Business Meeting

The minutes of the February 22, 2010 business meeting were motioned for approval by T. Robbi, and with a second from M. Petrus, were approved with no changes/deletions. There was one abstention.

LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA:

1. Two Bills:

Printech – printing & folding of 2010 Spring Newsletter - \$791.00
Joyce S. Corboy – reimbursement of postage/ mailing of Newsletter -
(Up to and not to exceed \$450.00)

PRESENTATION OF BILLS:

1. Printech – printing of 2010 Spring Newsletter - \$791.00
2. Joyce S. Corboy – reimbursement of postage for mailing of
2010 Spring Newsletter - up to and not to exceed - \$450.00
(Actual amount was - \$394.42)

Motion was made by M. Petrus to pay these invoices. Second was received from D. Kellogg and all were in favor.

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REPORTS:

- a. Planning Board – D. Sageser informed members that there was a presentation by Amwell Valley Winery, now the Old York Road Winery, re: improvements, etc. Planning Board members also discussed the rewriting of the Tree Harvesting Ordinance. The previous draft Harvesting Ordinance was sent to the Township Committee a short time ago and it was sent back for re-drafting. Lastly, the Planning Board discussed their 2010 goal of enhancing the zoning restrictions in the Agricultural Zone. Cluster development/open space was discussed, as well as, site planning standards for the valley area. Banisch Associates recently gave the Planning Board a presentation on this topic and encouraged them to apply for an ANJEC grant. ANJEC also encouraged this application and suggested that a support letter be sent by the Environmental Commission. D. Sageser distributed a draft letter offered by Banisch Associates and members reviewed it making several changes. Motion was made by T. Robbi to support the grant application and to send a letter of support with the changes suggested by members. D. Kellogg seconded the motion. Vote was unanimously in favor. D. Sageser will send the draft letter to secretary and secretary will make the changes and with S. Parsons' approval, leave the final copy on M. Andrews' desk for pickup by Banisch. D. Kellogg inquired if the Planning Board received information on an ANJEC e-mail message regarding the State regulations for builders – allowing them to circumvent local time restrictions for applications in regard to ordinances. Members discussed briefly.
- b. Township Committee – T. Martin was absent this evening. Thus, no report was received.
- c. Recycling Committee – M. Petrus informed members that the March Depot Day was held with the new signs on dumpsters indicating cardboard and plastics. Signs were well received by residents. 114 vehicles were serviced. On Monday after, the Raritan Waste Disposal driver reported that garbage was deposited into the cardboard dumpster. Recycling Committee members discussed the making of signs to warn residents that it is against the law to dump garbage into recycling containers. Members discussed the making of more signs indicating this fact. M. Petrus advised members that the safety vests used for Roadside Clean-Up Day are missing. The Recycling Committee also discussed the purchase of new recycling containers to be used for the local ball fields and a second letter to be sent to businesses who did not respond to the first letter.
- d. Farmland/Open Space Preservation – T. Robbi stated that Greenacres has advised them that there is money to be spent and if they don't, they will lose it. Therefore, there are several properties that they are reviewing.
- e. Sourlands Municipal Alliance Council – No report received.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Public Outreach – No report received. Earth Day will be held at the school on April 22. M. Petrus will check into it.
- b. Conservation Easements – S. Parson stated that the sub-committee has not met. However, a working space has been established in the basement of the Municipal Building. Paper supplies have been received as well as a new printer to be shared with the Historic Preservation Committee. Members briefly discussed their next meeting date, possibly on April 6. Follow-up letter to residents, who have had a site visit done, has been approved.
- c. 4-H Fair - M. Petrus reported that he will be going to the fairgrounds on Friday.
- d. Natural Resource Inventory – B. Hummel was absent this evening. No report was received. This topic will be tabled until B. Hummel is able to attend a meeting.
- e. Sustainable East Amwell – D. Sageser stated that he almost attended a presentation in Cherry Hill. However, it was canceled. S. Parson asked for a status report as far as where we are according to their point system. According to D. Sageser, our municipality is listed on their website. However, the State needs to be updated on the work we have done.
- f. Environmental Page on Website – S. Parsons stated that she did contact L. Lewis to see if she was interested in pursuing work in this area. She declined. Members discussed various items that might be entered onto the Environmental page. S. Parsons stated that she will follow-up with T. Stahl on how to proceed.

APPLICATIONS FROM PLANNING BOARD & BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT FOR REVIEW: none received.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **2010 Goals – Final Discussion and Approval – Members reviewed the revised 2010 Goals. T. Robbi made the motion to accept the 2010 Goals as presented this evening. J. Angelone seconded the motion and all were in favor. Secretary will distribute to all boards and committees.**

CORRESPONDENCE: All correspondence was listed on the 3/22/10 agenda. M. Petrus distributed a newspaper article during the meeting re: “Watchung to save \$4,000 by going green” - their newsletter will be posted on their website.

OPEN TO COMMISSION MEMBERS: No comments received during meeting. After meeting, members discussed the issues of road salt and a recent ANJEC seminar.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None present.

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ADJOURN: 8:45 PM **Motion for adjournment was received from D. Kellogg and M. Petrus seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

Members proceeded to affix mailing labels to the 2010 Spring Newsletter.

Joyce S. Corboy, Secretary

cc: Env. Com. Members Board of Adjustment Board of Health
Twp. Com. & Clerk Democrat Newspaper Recreation Com.
Twp. Bulletin Brd. Trenton Times Recycling Com.
Planning Board Associate Members Agric. Adv. Com.
Farmland & Open Space Preservation