

## MINUTES

### East Amwell Township Environmental Commission Business Meeting April 26, 2010 7:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The April 26, 2010 Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairperson, S. Parsons at 7:36 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, T. Robbi, J. Angelone,  
J. Corboy (Secretary), G. Robbi (guest)

**ABSENT:** F. Clair, D. Kellogg, E. Feinberg, T. Martin, B. Hummel, K. Hanntz,  
K. Haney

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Secretary announced that Clean Communities Grant Fund will be \$12,395.18 for the year 2010.

**The Township Committee has accepted L. Lewis' resignation from the Environmental Commission and they moved J. Angelone into her slot as a regular member. They also moved E. Feinberg from Alternate II to Alternate I.**

**PRESENTATION OF MINUTES:** March 22, 2010 – Business Meeting

The minutes of the March 22, 2010 business meeting were motioned for approval by T. Robbi, and with a second from M. Petrus, were approved with one minor word correction on page two. There were no abstentions.

#### **LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA:**

- 1. Note from J. Luhrs, CFO, 4/19/10, re: 2010 Budget – Members briefly discussed the approved budget amounts. Expense amounts for the 4-H Fair prizes were cut.**
- 2. Voucher for South Branch Watershed Association membership renewal - \$150.00**

#### **PRESENTATION OF BILLS:**

- 1. South Branch Watershed Association – renewal of membership - \$150.00**

**East Amwell Township Environmental Commission Minutes**  
**April 26, 2010**  
**Page Two**

**Motion was made by M. Petrus to pay this invoice. Second was received from J. Angelone and all were in favor.**

**REPORTS:**

- a. Planning Board – D. Sageser informed members that there was a lengthy discussion on the draft Tree Harvesting ordinance. It has been given to Banisch & Associates with suggested changes and issues discussed. Planning Board members discussed the different areas in the Township covered by different rules. Enforcement is also a problem.
- b. Township Committee – T. Martin was absent this evening. Thus, no report was received. Secretary reported that T. Martin stated at the Recycling Committee Meeting that they were deep into budget discussions. State aid had been cut. Also, the Township Committee is urging all boards and committees to use electronic communications.
- c. Recycling Committee – M. Petrus informed members that the new signs were put up at the last Depot Day – indicating dumping of garbage into the recycling containers is against the law. Recycling Committee is also looking into purchasing or obtaining more recycling containers for the ball fields. S. Katz is pursuing and organizing recycling at all of the ball fields, including the school fields. She is also working on the monthly articles for the VIP. Secretary is sending a second round of letters to local businesses urging their participation in recycling. Responses are coming in at a much better rate..
- d. Farmland/Open Space Preservation – T. Robbi reported that he did not attend the last FOSPC meeting. G. Robbi was present this evening and she reported that a couple of their members toured several parcels (5) – pre-assessment work with Greenacres. They are currently negotiating on the Zuegner property with the County and the State. The Farmland Assessment Plan is still being worked on and the latest review by the State was favorable. Approval of this plan is needed in order to apply for any of the \$750,000 grant monies. Once it is approved it will go to the Planning Board for insertion into the Master Plan.
- e. Sourlands Municipal Alliance Council – T. Robbi reported that there will be a meeting on Thursday – April 29. He will report back to us at the next meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- a. Public Outreach – M. Petrus reported that he was unable to participate in the School Earth Day Program. They decided to have classroom participation only – no exhibits. He also reminded members that we will need to search for a new youth member in the Fall.
- b. Conservation Easements – S. Parson stated that she met separately with D. Kellogg and E. Feinberg. E. Feinberg volunteered to do research at the County offices for us. S. Parsons stated that she is looking for surveys and more details because some of the properties list Conservation Easements, but do not indicate where they are located on the property.

**East Amwell Township Environmental Commission Minutes**  
**April 26, 2010**  
**Page Three**

- c. 4-H Fair - M. Petrus reported that the 4-H Fair will start on August 25, 2010 – Wednesday through Sunday. He is hoping that K.Hanntz can obtain student volunteers. Members discussed official acknowledgment of any student volunteer participation – thank you letters would be sent on official Township letterhead.
- 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. T. Robbi stated that as part of the Sourland Municipal Alliance Council, he received a CD which has on it the first phase of the Smart Growth Plan and one of the chapters is a Natural Resource Inventory of the Sourlands. When he views it, he will let members know what it contains. If it is worthy, he will try to obtain a copy for us.
- e. Sustainable East Amwell – D. Sageser stated that he forgot to bring his checklist to the meeting tonight..
- f. Environmental Page on Website – S. Parsons stated that she did contact T. Stahl and got the current newsletter posted on the website, including a list of upcoming events. A copy of T. Robbi’s current VIP articles has also been posted.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **Unused Pharmaceutical Collection – Members discussed an e-mail message sent from J. Angelone, “Coventa extends free unused pharmaceutical collection.” However, municipalities interested in participating to the program must obtain appropriate regulatory approvals in order to ensure that such wastes are not classified as hazardous waste from a federal, state or local perspective. S. Parsons expressed concern over this requirement. Members requested that J. Angelone investigate what is required and report back to members at the next meeting. Members indicated that surrounding communities might be included in this venture, if they decided to proceed. This item will be listed on the May agenda.**
  
- b. **Using Electronic Communications - Members discussed the costs involved in sending out the meeting packets and how to proceed with this venture. Minutes and agendas from other boards and committees are sent to the secretary via e-mail. Therefore it would be easy to forward them to members. The problem exists with items that are mailed and must be scanned in order to be forwarded to members. Size of the document may also be a problem on whether it can be scanned. For the time being, all correspondence will be forwarded to members as they are received via e-mail.**

**East Amwell Township Environmental Commission**  
**April 26, 2010**  
**Page Four**

**The agenda and draft minutes will be sent via e-mail the week prior to the meeting. Applications from the Planning Board and/or Board of Adjustment will be sent immediately when received, if they can be scanned.**

**CORRESPONDENCE: All correspondence was listed on the 4/26/10 agenda. Additions to the agenda are listed previously in these minutes.**

**OPEN TO COMMISSION MEMBERS: No comments received.**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: No comments received.**

**ADJOURN: 8:55 PM Motion for adjournment was received from T. Robbi and M. Petrus seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

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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

