

MINUTES

**East Amwell Township Environmental Commission
Business Meeting
May 24, 2010
7:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER: The May 24, 2010 Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairperson, S. Parsons at 7:38 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, T. Robbi, D. Kellogg, M. Petrus
E. Feinberg, J. Corboy (Secretary),

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None received.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES: April 26, 2010 – Business Meeting

The minutes of the April 26, 2010 business meeting were motioned for approval by T. Robbi, and with a second from M. Petrus, were approved with a correction on page two under Conservation Easements. There were two abstentions.

LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA:

- 1. Flyer from Central Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team – Go NATIVE**
- 2. E-Mail message from T. Robbi, 5/24/10, re: Road Salt
(to be discussed under New Business – as requested by T. Robbi)**
- 3. Letter from B. Kibler/SBWA, 5/17/10, re: thank you for renewing membership**
- 4. Letter from J. E. McCormac/Woodbridge Twp., 5/14/10, Sustainable Raritan River Conference**
- 5. E-Mail message from T. Robbi, 5/5/10, re: Smart Growth Alliance Minutes**

PRESENTATION OF BILLS: none received

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REPORTS:

- a. Planning Board – D. Sageser was absent this evening. Thus, no report was received.
- b. Township Committee – T. Martin was absent this evening. Thus, no report was received.
- c. Recycling Committee – M. Petrus informed members that the Depot Days are reported as successful. Recycling Committee received information about a program that the school is participating in with TerraCycle. They are collecting various wrappers and juice containers to forward to TerraCycle for monetary rewards. It was suggested that we assist them by collecting these items at the Depot Days. New recycling containers have been placed at all fields. Members cut the lids with holes big enough for cans and bottles. Businesses have been returning their forms at a good rate. Those that have not returned the forms will be visited by a member of the Recycling Committee. The Clean-Up Day Report was given and the Recycling Committee is still looking for youth members. Environmental Commission members briefly discussed the Clean Communities Grant Fund and rebates for old refrigeration units.
- d. Farmland/Open Space Preservation – T. Robbi reported that the third revision of the Farmland Plan has been completed and sent off to the State.
- e. Sourlands Municipal Alliance Council – T. Robbi reported that the Alliance met on 4/29/10 and he forwarded the minutes to all on 5/5/10. Another meeting was also held. Municipal Alliance was set up as a result of the Smart Growth Plan. There will be two representatives from each municipality – one delegate and one alternate. Tracy Carluccio is the delegate from East Amwell and T. Robbi is the alternate. It is being set up similar to the “Ten Towns” Alliance in the Great Swamp area. The difference in the two is that the “Ten Towns” Alliance had three representatives from each municipality – one of which was an elected municipal official. The other two were an administrator and an appointed representative from the community. This set-up seems to have more political impact. Regions have been defined and they are now working on developing criteria for comparing various towns and areas that are involved. One of the communities has not yet sent representatives to the Alliance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Public Outreach – M. Petrus reported that the Plant Exchange Day was very successful. A table was set up with literature and samples of invasive plants. He was not able to participate on Earth Day at the School since they decided to have classroom participation only. He reminded members that we need to search for new youth members for the coming year. Members briefly discussed points such as from what grades and age. M. Petrus stated that he will be going to the School to obtain volunteers for the 4-H Fair and he will inquire about future Environmental Commission youth members, possibly meeting with their Environmental Club.

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b. Conservation Easements – S. Parson stated that she met with M. Petrus to review their list and picked out three properties. He will check more thoroughly on these properties. Hopefully, letters will go out to the property owners shortly requesting permission to site visit.

c. 4-H Fair - M. Petrus reported that the registration materials have been received. D. Kellogg volunteered to chair the project this year. M. Petrus will be in charge of recycling at the Fair and help with set-up. Budget cuts will limit the amount of prizes that we can purchase. S. Parsons suggested that they re-use the pledge and poster sign-up. M. Petrus suggested that they have a contest with the most creative use of recycling objects. M. Petrus suggested that we take advantage of asking senior citizens if they might like to volunteer at the booth. D. Kellogg suggested that the letters to other boards and committees asking for volunteers, as well as the ones to surrounding communities, be sent out a little earlier this year.

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 was absent this evening. Thus, no report was received. M. Petrus pointed out an interesting article in the ANJEC Annual Report on “Sustainable Jersey.” An official copy was not received by this secretary.

f. Environmental Page on Website – S. Parsons stated that this item should be moved up to “Reports.” Members agreed. Secretary will make the change in next month’s agenda.

APPLICATIONS FROM PLANNING BOARD & BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT FOR REVIEW:

a. Block 34, Lot 25.07 (Spies)

T. Robbi will check with M. Andrews to see if it was deemed complete at the last Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting. If it was, they will have to site visit it before June 7.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Unused Pharmaceutical Collection – J. Angelone was absent this evening, so this topic was not discussed any further.

b. Using Electronic Communications - Members stated that so far electronic communications seem to be working just fine for all. M. Petrus stated some problems occurred because he did not have the latest updates on his computer. S. Parsons thought that, perhaps, the agenda went out too early, because some items were received afterwards and were not listed on the agenda. Secretary informed members that she e-mails the agenda on the same day that it would have been prepared for mail.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Members went on the discuss road salt – recent e-mails sent by T. Robbi – communication with T. Carluccio of the Board of Health. The Board of Health is monitoring wells as to the affect of road salt on the well water. In the past, the Environmental Commission has monitored the streams. He briefly explained to all what the current situation is. He suggested that this issue be brought up with the farmers because of the effect of road salt on vegetation. Township is now preparing budgets for the next year in purchasing either salt or grit. Grit is more expensive and harder to find. Calcium chloride is more expensive than sodium chloride, so unlikely to be used. Once the sodium enters the aquifer, it would keep coming for years even if application ceased. We would be handing the problem to the next generation. Salt is harmful to macro-invertebrates which are already at low levels in East Amwell Township. M. Petrus read from the recent ANJEC Annual report on problems with wells in North Jersey. D. Kellogg stated the salt tends to get trapped with the soil and it forms a hard white layer not conducive to vegetation. E. Feinberg suggested that we might translate this issue into economical terms/impact – look for data – how many homes would the Township have to buy filters for once the wells were affected by the salt. Where trees downed by the recent storms affected by salt placed on the roadways? S. Parson suggested that a couple of members meet separately to discuss this further. T. Robbi will search for an article done by the salt industry on grit, stating that grit is better used on roadways where speed is not an issue. M. Petrus will contact the ANJEC website to gather information on the article that appeared in the ANJEC Report. T. Robbi will check with T. Carluccio to see if she wants to do anything further on this issue. Members were asked to send their comments to T. Robbi.

CORRESPONDENCE: All correspondence was listed on the 5/24/10 agenda. Last minute additions were listed previously in these minutes.

OPEN TO COMMISSION MEMBERS: No comments received.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: No comments received.

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**ADJOURN: 8:50 PM Motion for adjournment was received from T. Robbi
and D. Kellogg seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

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