

## MINUTES

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** The November 22, 2010 Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairperson, S. Parsons at 7:35 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. Sageser, J. Angelone, J. Bradstreet, J. Corboy, (Secretary)

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None received.

**PRESENTATION OF MINUTES:** October 25, 2010 – Business Meeting

The minutes of the October 25, 2010 business meeting were motioned for approval by M. Petrus, and with a second from T. Robbi, were approved with one modification on page 4 – dollar amount changed to per tree. There was one abstention.

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

**1. Letter from T. Sheppard/Parks & Recreation, 11/15/10, re: Earth Day – 4/16/11**

**PRESENTATION OF BILLS:** none received

#### **REPORTS:**

a. Planning Board – D. Sageser reported that the Planning Board continued their discussion of solar panels - ground based solar panels – solar farms. F. Banisch presented a draft ordinance/amendment to the Master Plan regarding regulations at the meeting. Planning Board hopes to move quickly on this issue – before May 2011. They hope to have a public hearing soon after the beginning of the new year. Some of the issues to consider are limiting the height of the solar structure, the possibility of reducing the carbon footprint, establishing a buffer area surrounding the solar structure,

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stormwater management as it relates to solar panels, guidelines for abandonment, etc. Planning Board made several suggestions/changes to the Banisch draft ordinance. S. Parsons suggested that D. Sageser send the Environmental Commission a copy of the draft ordinance after it is reviewed at their December meeting. D. Sageser & T. Robbi will be attending the 12/2/10 Hunterdon County Breakfast Talk on Solar Farms.

b. Township Committee – T. Martin was absent this evening. Thus, no report was received.

c. Recycling Committee – M. Petrus informed members that he had nothing new to report from the Recycling Committee. J. Corboy announced that the January 2011 Depot Day will be on January 8 NOT January 1.

d.. Farmland/Open Space Preservation – T. Robbi informed members of an article in the Hunterdon County Democrat of a new project concerning an eighty-eight acre property on Cider Mill Road. Various funding sources have been lined up and coordination among these sources will be most important to this project. Property is surrounding by existing preserved farmland. It will be managed by D & R Greenway. D. Sageser stated that this land has been approved by the Planning Board as an addition into the Master Plan as part of their incentive acquisition plan of areas of open space. It previously fell outside of their areas identified for this purpose.

e. Sourlands Alliance – T. Robbi stated that the Comprehensive Management Plan has been approved. The next step is for the representatives from the various municipalities to present it to their municipality. It is hoped that this will be the basis for rules, regulations and/or zoning in the area of the Sourlands. They will be meeting next week to plan on presentation mechanisms/strategies.

f. Environmental Page on Website – S. Parsons reported that she has nothing new to report on this topic.

g. Public Outreach – M. Petrus stated that he has made no progress on the quest for student members. The new issue of “Notes from the Woods” is in draft form, currently being reviewed.

h. Site Review – Block 21, Lot 19.07 (Wilkinson) – T. Robbi and M. Petrus checked into this application and saw no problems. Members discussed and decided that there were no environmental issues seen with this application.

Four site visits were done on the properties containing conservation easements – photos were taken – properties were walked searching for markers. Currently, some recommendations are being considered – reports are still in draft form. Eventually, reports will be finalized, one will be put in the files and one will be sent to the property owner. A vintage draft form was found by S. Parsons in the files and members discussed. T. Robbi sent a note to the Planning Board to ascertain the age of this document and if it were ever in actual use.

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- a. Conservation Easements – S. Parsons stated that she had nothing new to report on this topic.
- b. Sustainable East Amwell – D. Sageser stated that he has nothing new to report.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**a. Road Salt** – Synopsis of the recent Township Committee meeting discussing this topic has not been received from J. Angelone. S Parson provided the information from the minutes to him and he promised to organize his thoughts by January 2011. M. Petrus brought up the topic of what is used on the State and County roads and the possible results of such actions. Members discussed briefly. J. Bradstreet volunteered to collect water samples this winter if we have any snow. T. Robbi will bring the sample bottles to the January 2011 meeting and/or leave them at the Environmental Commission desk in the basement area of the Municipal Building.

**NEW BUSINESS: none received.**

**CORRESPONDENCE: All correspondence was listed on the 11/22/10 agenda.**

**OPEN TO COMMISSION MEMBERS: S. Parsons informed members that D. Kellogg volunteered as a Township representative for the Delaware River Basin Water Resource Protection Forum.**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: No public present.**

**ADJOURN: 8:35 PM Motion for adjournment was received from D. Sageser 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		