

MINUTES

East Amwell Township Environmental Commission Reorganization & Business Meeting

January 24, 2011

7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: The January 24, 2011 Reorganization 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 Reorganization Meeting of the Environmental Commission, as published in the Hunterdon County Democrat on December 23, 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. Parson, M. Petrus, D. Sageser, D. Kellogg, T. Robbi,
F. Clair, E. Feinberg, J. Corboy (secretary)

ABSENT: J. Bradstreet, J. Angelone, B. Hummel

ANNOUNCEMENTS: No announcements were made.

NOMINATIONS FOR VICE-CHAIRPERSON: S. Parsons called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson. D. Kellogg nominated M. Petrus for the position of Vice-Chairperson. This motion was seconded by T. Robbi. No other nominations were received. Nominations were closed by D. Sageser. Vote was unanimously in favor. M. Petrus was elected as Vice-Chairperson.

READING AND ADOPTION OF THE 2010 RESOLUTION: Annual Notice Schedule – 2011 – was read to the members by J. Corboy. Members reviewed the dates of the meetings for 2011. There were no conflicts with holidays. D. Kellogg moved to accept the Resolution as read. Second was received from F. Clair and the vote was unanimously in favor. The December meeting will not be held. Secretary will forward the Resolution to the Hunterdon County Democrat – Legal Public Notices.

APPOINT SUBCOMMITTEES: The following persons have been appointed to these sub-committees.

- a. Site Review Committee – T. Robbi, M. Petrus, F. Clair - (E. Feinberg – alternate)
- b. 4-H Fair – D. Kellogg, M. Petrus
- c. Conservation Easements – S. Parsons, D. Kellogg, E. Feinberg, + Site Review

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d. Public Outreach – M. Petrus, T. Robbi (Public Outreach will include liaison to the school, the Plant Exchange Day and VIP publicity)

D. Sageser wondered about follow-up for Conservation Easements. D. Kellogg stated that we should concentrate on these three items: 1. Get database done, 2. Inspect East Amwell Township easement sites, and 3. Decide what else to do afterwards, i.e., development of a plan for the maintenance of the easements, development of an easement ordinance, etc. E. Feinberg agreed that we should have a plan in place after all easements are reviewed – what to do with this information. Grants are available for further actions. T. Robbi mentioned the fact that in other municipalities, their Open Space Committee is involved with this issue. FOSPC has agreed to provide assistance. Sub-committee members met briefly to discuss this topic after the reorganizational meeting was completed.

Members discussed in depth the formation of a new sub-committee – Stream Quality Assessment. The main purpose of this committee will be the testing of stream water quality, especially after salt application on the roadways following winter storms. Other purposes may develop in the future. Members appointed to this new sub-committee were: S. Parsons, T. Robbi, D. Kellogg, and J. Bradstreet.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES: November 22, 2010 – Business Meeting

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

PRESENTATION OF BILLS:

a. ANJEC – Membership Renewal – Dues (seven members)	-	\$280.00
Workshop Plan	-	60.00

M. Petrus made the motion to pay this bill. D. Kellogg seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Another bill was presented this evening:

D. Kellogg - Reimbursement for 4-H prizes	-	\$274.98
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T. Robbi made the motion to pay this bill. D. Sageser seconded the motion. All were in favor. S. Parson read the list of upcoming environmental commission training sessions and advised anyone who was interested to attend.

REPORTS:

a. Planning Board – D. Sageser stated that the Planning Board held its Reorganization Meeting. The draft Solar Panel Ordinance was approved by the Planning Board and was

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forwarded to the Township Committee. At the urging of the Historic Preservation Committee, they also discussed the identification of historic sites within the workings of the preservation of farmland. It is hoped that there will be some regulations installed to preserve some of these historic farm sites.

b. Township Committee – No representative was present, thus, no report was received.

c. Recycling Committee – M. Petrus informed members that the Recycling Committee held their reorganization meeting on 1/11/11. W. Harrison was re-elected Chairperson. A member has researched funding for Recycling Enforcement. Approximately twenty-three businesses have not responded to the two letters sent out. Following the meeting date, Raritan Valley Waste Disposal notified some of its clients that they are initiating a new program where clients will be rewarded for recycling with coupons for local businesses. New recycling containers will be provided to the homeowners for this purpose. All recycling will be commingled. Clean-Up Day will be 4/30/11.

d. Farmland/Open Space Preservation – T. Robbi stated that an eighty-nine acre farm on Cider Mill Road has recently been preserved for Open Space/bird habitat. It will be managed by D & R Greenway and have trails available. Two farms have applied directly to SADC for preservation. This means there will be no funds needed from East Amwell Township. The Township Committee has approved partial funding for preserving a fifty acre farm across from the East Amwell School (Drift Farm - below the horse barns). Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance will manage this preservation.

e. Sourland Alliance – T. Robbi is no longer an alternate to this group. He suggested someone from the Planning Board be appointed. He also suggested that this item be removed from the agenda.

f. Site Review Committee – Nothing new to report.

g. Public Outreach – M. Petrus stated that he had nothing new to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Conservation Easements – T. Robbi reported that recently four site visits have been done. The draft recommendations went out to all sub-committee members for review and approval. Once they are approved, a letter with the recommendations will be sent to each homeowner, and possibly to the Planning Board for submission into the files. Sub-committee members will discuss their next steps at a brief meeting following the main meeting tonight. S. Parsons stated that the GIS map has been updated showing conservation easements only. T. Robbi stated that for various reasons, this map may not be completely accurate.

b. Sustainable Jersey – D. Sageser stated that he had nothing new for this item. He also suggested that it be removed from the agenda since he feels it does not relate to East Amwell Township. It seems to relate better to more suburban/urban areas.

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NEW BUSINESS:

a. Roadside Clean-Up Day: In the absence of Blaine Hummel, secretary suggested that a vote be taken to support this venture. M. Petrus made the motion and D. Kellogg seconded it. All were in favor. Secretary will inform B. Hummel of our support.

b. Volunteer for Tree Harvesting Committee: See Correspondence # j-5 (E-Mail Message from T. Stahl) S. Parsons asked for a volunteer to service on this committee. F. Clair volunteered. S. Parsons will provide him with a copy of the new revised Tree Harvesting Ordinance. Secretary will notify T. Stahl.

CORRESPONDENCE: All correspondence was listed on the 1/24/11 agenda. There were no last minute items added to this agenda.

OPEN TO COMMISSION MEMBERS: Secretary inquired if all members had received the e-mail message from ANJEC concerning the new Electronic Recycling Law. (1/6/11)

S. Parsons stated that she has requested an update to the Environmental page of the website – removing 2010 materials, etc. She also read off the list of possible fields of work to obtain ANJEC grant funds.

M. Petrus stated that he intends to investigate the possibility of obtaining an ANJEC grant for work on the railroad tracks between Lambertville and Ringoes – removing the tracks and installing trails.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None present.

ADJOURN: 9:10 PM Motion for adjournment was received from T. Robbi and M. Petrus 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		

