

MINUTES

East Amwell Township Environmental Commission Business Meeting July 25, 2011 7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: The July 25, 2011 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 27, 2011. 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, D. Sageser, J. Bradstreet, E. Feinberg, J. Corboy (Secretary)

ABSENT: F. Clair, J. Angelone, T. Mathews, B. Hummel

ANNOUNCEMENTS: No announcements were made.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES: June 27, 2011 Business Meeting

The minutes of the June 27, 2011 business meeting were motioned for approval by J. Bradstreet, and with a second from M. Petrus, were approved with one word deletion on page two, section d. There were two abstentions.

LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA: None presented.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS: None presented.

REPORTS:

a. Planning Board – D. Sageser stated that the Planning Board's sub-committee has started to review and update the current Tree Harvesting Ordinance. Their goal is to have it ready for review by the Planning Board at a Fall meeting. D. Sageser stated that they will be considering additional insight from the public given when the last Tree Harvesting Ordinance was approved. Property owners with a Woodlands/Forest Management Plan are excluded from compliance with this ordinance. More coherent tree removal is another goal to be considered. They hope to craft something that is well suited for all of East Amwell. Remediation component (planting of replacement trees) is another issue that they must consider. He also stated that they are studying other tree

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harvesting ordinances from the surrounding municipalities, in particular those in the Sourland Alliance. T. Robbi stated that the problem with replanting is that the replacement trees should be protected with fencing. Another issue coming to light is the removal of trees for the installation of solar farms. Tree clusters and/or canopy of trees are an important issue, especially in the Sourland Mountain area. D. Sageser mentioned the Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) with reference to historical trees, landmark trees, etc. This factor might also have to be considered.

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

c. Recycling Committee – M. Petrus stated that the Recycling Committee has postponed moving forward with their commercial enforcement plan. County Freeholders have agreed to meet with SWAC representatives to discuss this issue. M. Petrus informed members of a recent article in the Hunterdon County Democrat which shows that Hunterdon County has moved up on the scale of recycling amounts. 2009 figures show us moving up from the bottom to sixth from the bottom. He also mentioned that there are still problems with Depot Days – residents are dumping garbage into the recycling dumpsters. T. Mathews suggested installing security cameras – he will supply catalogs to the Committee for their consideration.

d. Farmland/Open Space Preservation – T. Robbi informed members that some large potential properties are being encouraged to enroll in the preservation program.

e. Site Review Committee – There are two solar applications before the Board of Adjustment. The Everitt application might be decided on at the next meeting. T. Robbi suggested that S. Parsons attend the next Board of Adjustment meeting representing the Environmental Commission. Members will stay after the meeting tonight to review this application. It is his suggestion that that cattle on the property be fenced away from the wetland areas. The Everitt and Stahl properties are located fairly close to an electrical substation. Supposedly, subsidy payoffs are dropping. The Stahl application will be introduced at the next meeting and discussions will probably go on into the Fall. E. Feinberg will represent the Environmental Commission for these discussions. T. Robbi informed members that there is a wooded area is to be considered on this property – trees will be cut down and the ground will be treated to prevent future growth.

f. Public Outreach – D. Kellogg informed members that the 4-H application was filled out and will be mailed tomorrow. M. Petrus will be setting up recycling on Tuesday with representatives from West Amwell Township. Scheduling chart has been mailed to all interested parties. Raritan Township has asked for a booth setup next to East Amwell. S. Parsons asked for sample questions, varying from simple to difficult, from the members that might be used for the children's contest. D. Kellogg briefly explained the procedures of the booth, contents on the table, the wheel of fortune and contest. Approximately 500 prizes will be needed. M. Petrus is still waiting for an answer from Mavrode Tree Farm concerning prizes – tree seedlings. M. Petrus will work on the display backboards.

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g. Conservation Easements – S. Parson had no new information on this topic. M. Petrus promised to prepare the letter for release shortly to the next prospective properties to be site visited.

h. Stream Quality Assessment – D. Kellogg stated that she had nothing new to report on this topic. She suggested to the members that they collect the next stream assessment samples in August. S. Parsons suggested adding additional sites because of the new applications of road salt this past winter. J. Bradstreet will be collecting samples near his property – Back Brook. This will be a new site for collection. T. Robbi suggested that we volunteer to collect samples from the pond on the Gardner property. Amwell Lake site was added last year by T. Robbi.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

CORRESPONDENCE: All correspondence was listed on the 7/25/11 agenda. **j.4. – Letter from B. Rosko – Members briefly discussed this correspondence. T. Robbi stated that East Amwell Township is already well covered as far as “Stewardship of Open Space” is concerned with agencies such as Hunterdon Land Trust, Delaware & Raritan (D&R), and the State’s Green Acres program. If the Township has an interest in a meeting with the North Jersey Resource Conservation and Development group, T. Robbi has agreed to represent the Environmental Commission.**

OPEN TO COMMISSION MEMBERS: No comments received.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None present.

ADJOURN: 8:55 PM Motion for adjournment was received from T. Robbi and E. Feinberg 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		