

MINUTES

**East Amwell Township Environmental Commission
Business Meeting
October 24, 2011
7:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER: The October 24, 2011 Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairperson, S. Parsons at 7:32 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, D. Sageser, D. Kellogg, M. Petrus, T. Robbi, J. Bradstreet, J. Angelone, J. Corboy (Secretary)

ABSENT: F. Clair, E. Feinberg, B. Hummel, T. Mathews

ANNOUNCEMENTS: No announcements were made.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES: September 26, 2011 Business Meeting

The minutes of the September 26, 2011 business meeting were motioned for approval by D. Sageser, and with a second from J. Bradstreet, were approved with no corrections/additions. There were four abstentions.

LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA: Bill from D. Kellogg

PRESENTATION OF BILLS:

a. Reimbursement to D. Kellogg – prizes for 4-H Fair - \$188.35

Motion to pay this bill was made by M. Petrus and seconded by J. Angelone. Vote was unanimously in favor of payment.

REPORTS:

a. Planning Board – D. Sageser informed members that the Stahl solar installation application was withdrawn and that they asked for a continuance. Prior to the withdrawal, the Planning Board did site visit the property and made several suggestions. D. Kellogg mentioned that fact that recently solar credits dropped from \$650 to \$200 per

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megawatt hour. The Planning Board continued its discussion on the revised Tree Harvesting ordinance. It is their intention to present it the Township Committee by the end of the year. It is anticipated that the Planning Board will vote on it during the November meeting. One aspect still being discussed is the establishment of a tree replacement fund. If more than twenty trees are removed from a property, property owner will be required to replace these trees, or if not, donate a certain amount to a tree fund.

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

c. Recycling Committee – M. Petrus informed members that the Recycling Committee has expanded its list of acceptable items to collect for TerraCycle/East Amwell School. New list will be printed in the next issue of the VIP. Also, S. Katz sent recycling reminders to the soccer league leaders.

d. Farmland/Open Space Preservation – T. Robbi stated that FOSPC is working on two new potential acquisitions. The first property is located Wertsville Road near the Manners Farm. This is a SADC outright purchase – no funds from the Township are required. The second property is located on Boss Road – Black River Farm – acreage exclusive of the equine business. This is also a SADC outright purchase. T. Robbi explained that working with SADC is usually a much quicker process.

T. Robbi also reviewed the map of the Cider Mill Grasslands – currently placed in the lobby of the Municipal Building. He stated that the Opening Celebration was well attended and he provided information to all members present on the trails, birdlife present on the grounds, etc. Some wildlife was even spotted during the timing of the Celebration Ceremony. He urged all members to visit the site.

e. Site Review Committee – no report received. T. Robbi provided some additional information on the Stahl application – pond area not affected by current application plans. The previous site review comments are not now in effect because of the changes made in the Stahl application.

f. Public Outreach/4-H Fair – No Activity.

g. Conservation Easements – S. Parsons stated that she and J. Bradstreet have met to turn over all of the information on conservation easements. This evening she brought the early grant applications paperwork for storage at the Municipal Building/Conservation Easement file cabinet. She raised the question of preserved properties with conservation easements – who actually owns them. T. Robbi suggested that the Tax Assessor/M. Busher be contacted with any questions. M. Petrus was asked to check-in with J. Bradstreet on the next set of properties to be site visited. S. Parsons stated that there is a leftover amount from the original grant - \$187.56. Members discussed several items that could be purchased with that amount that would be helpful in this project.

h. Stream Quality Assessment – No Activity.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: None presented.

CORRESPONDENCE: All correspondence was listed on the 11/28/11 agenda.

OPEN TO COMMISSION MEMBERS: S. Parsons stated that she did investigate the Shop-Rite drug return envelopes mentioned at the last meeting. There is a fee involved with this project. Telephone number listed for more information was contacted but no response as of this date.

D. Sageser expressed the Commission's appreciation to S. Parson for all of her hard work and effort on this Commission, especially on the Conservation Easement project. Members applauded and everyone wished her well.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None present.

ADJOURN: 8:34 PM Motion for adjournment was received from D. Sageser 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		