

MINUTES

**East Amwell Township Environmental Commission
Reorganization & Business Meeting
January 23, 2012
7:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER: The January 23, 2011 Reorganization Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order by Vice-Chairperson, M. Petrus at 7:36 PM.

In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, M. Petrus announced that this is the Reorganization Meeting of the Environmental Commission, as published in the Hunterdon County Democrat on December 22, 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: M. Petrus, D. Sageser, D. Kellogg, T. Robbi,
J. Angelone, E. Feinberg, B. Hummel, J. Corboy (secretary)
Guests: R. Ginman, Sean Grace

ABSENT: J. Bradstreet, F. Clair

ANNOUNCEMENTS: No announcements were made.

NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIRPERSON: M. Petrus opened the nominations for the position of Chairperson and T. Robbi seconded the motion.. D. Kellogg nominated M. Petrus for the position of Chairperson. This motion was seconded by T. Robbi. No other nominations were received. Vote was unanimously in favor. M. Petrus was elected as Chairperson for 2012.

NOMINATIONS FOR VICE-CHAIRPERSON: T. Robbi opened the nominations for Vice-Chairperson and in turn nominated D. Kellogg. That motion was seconded by D. Sageser. No other nominations were received. Vote was unanimously in favor. Motion to close all nominations was received from E. Feinberg and seconded by D. Sageser.

READING AND ADOPTION OF THE 2012 RESOLUTION: Annual Notice Schedule – 2012 – was read to the members by J. Corboy. Members reviewed the dates of the meetings for 2012. There is a conflict with the May meeting date – Memorial Day. Secretary suggested that the meeting be held on May 30 – Wednesday. M. Petrus moved to accept the Resolution as read. Second was received from T. Robbi 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.

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

- a. Site Review Committee – T. Robbi, M. Petrus, E. Feinberg, (F. Clair - alternate)
- b. 4-H Fair – D. Kellogg, M. Petrus, J. Angelone
- c. Conservation Easements – J. Bradstreet, D. Kellogg, E. Feinberg, + Site Review
- d. Public Outreach – M. Petrus, T. Robbi, D. Kellogg (Public Outreach will include liaison to the school, the Plant Exchange Day and VIP publicity)
- e. Stream Quality Assessment – D. Kellogg, T. Robbi, J. Bradstreet

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES: November 28, 2011 – Business Meeting

The minutes of the November 28, 2011 business meeting were motioned for approval by T. Robbi, and with a second from E. Feinberg were approved with no changes/deletions. There were two abstentions.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS:

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

Members reviewed the ANJEC Renewal Notice and discussed that fact that the Workshop Plan was not utilized last year at all. M. Petrus made a motion not to obtain the Workshop Plan this year. T. Robbi seconded the motion and all were in favor.

J. Angelone made the motion to pay the ANJEC Membership renewal fee only (\$280.00). E. Feinberg seconded the motion. All were in favor.

PRESENTATION BY D. GINMAN: D. Ginman was present this evening to request the Environmental Commission’s support for a \$25,000 matching grant application to prepare trails, etc., on the Omick tract – east of Route 31. Maps were provided with explanation of the sites and what work would have to be done, such as, parking lots, boardwalk over wetlands, etc. They are working with D&R Greenway on this project. Expertise is needed to identify trees, plants, etc. J. Angelone stated that his son is working with the Eagle Scouts on a project and he suggested that the Scout groups in the surrounding area be contacted for assistance. T. Robbi suggested that signage be made to identify plants and trees along the trail and he suggested that the Environmental Club at the East Amwell School be contacted concerning the making of signs. M. Petrus made the suggestion of forming groups for future trail maintenance. D. Kellogg suggested obtaining the interest support of Princeton Hydro, LLC. T. Robbi made the motion for a

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resolution/letter of support for this project and it was seconded by D. Sageser. The vote was unanimously in favor.

REPORTS:

- a. Planning Board – D. Sageser stated that the Planning Board held its Reorganization Meeting. They will continue their discussions on the Stahl Solar Application at their February meeting – conflict with survey. The applicants will start over with a more concise application and hopefully be able to answer questions and assess problems. The Planning Board is also continuing to update the Tree Harvesting Ordinance. They also discussed an application for a sub-division received from Thompson. It has received preliminary approval. T. Robbi stated that he sent an e-mail to M. Andrews reminding her that the Environmental Commission visited this site back in 2006 and the recommendations remain the same.
- b. Township Committee – D. Sageser stated that the Township Committee decided to ask the Environmental Commission to choose its Chairperson and report back to them for their approval and the Mayor's appointment.
- c. Recycling Committee – M. Petrus informed members that the Recycling Committee held their reorganization meeting on 1/10/12. W. Harrison was re-elected Chairperson. He informed members that residents are still leaving garbage in the Depot Day dumpsters. Security cameras were discussed. Clean-Up Day will be 4/28/12.
- d. Farmland/Open Space Preservation – T. Robbi stated that he will make his comments under item g.
- e. Site Review Committee – T. Robbi reiterated about the Thompson sub-division application before the Planning Board. He also reviewed the Bajzath application that is before the Zoning Board of Adjustment and explained their request for a variance (two acre lot). He informed members that he could see no environmental issues with this application, therefore, no site visit will be required.
- f. Public Outreach – M. Petrus stated that he had nothing new to report. He is still hoping to obtain interest in a student member.
- g. Conservation Easements – J. Bradstreet was absent this evening, but did send an e-mail message about an inquiry from a real estate agent. He provided information that we had on file to the real estate agent. D. Kellogg inquired if it is the Environmental Commission's responsibility to respond to questions on conservation easements. T. Robbi stated that he thought it was the responsibility of the Tax Assessor. M. Petrus stated that he has a meeting scheduled with S. Parsons and will approach this subject with her.

NJRCD Discussion – This group attended the FOSPC meeting recently and explained that they have limited sources (grant monies) that might be used for documenting conservation easements. North Jersey Resource Conservation & Development Council is mainly involved in water resource protection. Since most conservation areas are usually

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concerned with wet areas/drainage, they might be interested in assisting us. T. Robbi suggested that he invite them to our next meeting to discuss this possibility. Members agreed.

h. Stream Quality Assessment – D. Kellogg mentioned the fact that she observed salt being distributed on Dutch Road during the last snow storm and wondered if the policy on salt distribution had changed. Dutch Road was not on the list for salt application. She suggested expanding the sites for water sampling. J. Angelone suggested that we contact someone to find out if the policy has changed and/or what is the current policy in practice. He asked for permission to contact the Township Committee. Members agreed with his request. T. Robbi suggested that he also request an accounting of how much salt has been used. T. Robbi suggested that we continue to take water samplings and analyze the data. If there is a change in the data, then we could approach the Township Committee with that information. D. Sageser stated that as far as he knows, the policy has not changed. However, budget talks are expected in the near future and that might change the policy. He also reminded members that there is a case of liability – safety of school bus drivers, mail carriers and residents. E. Feinberg suggested that photos be taken of areas where salt has been applied to measure the affects/impact of salt applications on vegetation, etc. T. Robbi stated that photos do not take into account other aspects of change, such as, damage from storms. E. Feinberg stated that these changes could be noted with the particular photo. E. Feinberg stated that we have a direct responsibility for maintaining vegetative buffers. D. Kellogg suggested making a list of the places where water samples were taken.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Roadside Clean-Up Day: Blaine Hummel was present at tonight's meeting to request the support of the Environmental Commission for the 25th Annual Roadside Clean-Up Day. Members applauded his efforts. He informed members that the date of April 14, 2012 was chosen. M. Petrus made the motion and J. Angelone seconded it. All were in favor.

b. 2012 Budget Request – Members reviewed the 2011 budgets and discussed what items might be reduced. Secretary's salary could be dropped to \$1500.00 and Dues, etc. could be dropped to \$500.00. It was suggested that \$250 be requested for Other Expenses (mostly for 4-H Fair expenses). M. Petrus made the motion to accept the 2012 Budget Request as discussed. E. Feinberg seconded the motion and all were in favor. Secretary forward the 2012 Budget Requests to Ms. Monzo, CFO.

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CORRESPONDENCE: All correspondence was listed on the 1/23/11 agenda.

LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS:

- a. e-mail message from T. Stahl, 1/18/12, re: Membership for EC
- b. e-mail message from T. Robbi, 1/18/12, re: Thompson application...
- c. Application from Brd. Of Adjustment – Bajzath – Block 32, Lot 4.03

OPEN TO COMMISSION MEMBERS: No comments received.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: No further comments received.

ADJOURN: 9:02 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