

MINUTES
East Amwell Township Environmental Commission
Business Meeting
March 26, 2012
7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: The March 26, 2012 Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairperson, M. Petrus at 7:35 PM.

In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, M. Petrus announced that this is the Regular Business Meeting of the Environmental Commission, as published in the Hunterdon County Democrat on January 26, 2012. 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, T. Robbi, J. Bradstreet, D. Kellogg, J. Angelone
J. Corboy (Secretary)

ABSENT: D. Sageser, F. Clair, E. Feinberg, S. Grace, B. Hummel

ANNOUNCEMENTS: No announcements were made.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES: February 27, 2012 – Business Meeting

The minutes of the February 27, 2012 Business Meeting were motioned for approval by J. Bradstreet, and with a second from M. Petrus, were approved with no corrections/additions/deletions. There were two abstentions.

LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA:

- a. Letter from D. J. Burham/Clinton Twp., 3/15/12, re: Resolution #44-12
- b. Letter from C. S. Graff/CSG, 3/20/12, re: Response Action Outcome...
- c. Letter from Z. Qui/NJIT, 3/5/12, re: Neshanic River Watershed Restoration...

PRESENTATION OF BILLS: None presented.

REPORTS:

- a. Planning Board – D. Sageser was absent this evening. Thus, no report was received.
- b. Township Committee – D. Sageser was absent this evening. Thus, no report was received.

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- c. **Recycling Committee – M. Petrus stated that the Recycling Committee did not meet due to a lack of quorum.**
- d. **Farmland/Open Space Preservation – T. Robbi informed members that he did not attend that last FOSPC meeting. However, he did inform members that he attended the New Jersey Land Rally. Prior to the opening day, he took the Field Trip tour to the Dukes Estate. One thousand acres will be open to the public along the Raritan River. The Grand Opening to the public is scheduled for May 19, 2012. He suggested going to their website for full information. Forest areas and re-built wetlands are involved and the NJRCS will monitor every four years. The Land Rally itself took place at Brookdale Community College and they offered some informative sessions at the College site. Some interesting comments that he took away from the Land Rally and that he thought might be of interest to members were: there are three threats to the quality of land and maintaining open space in a natural state – deer, evasive plants & soils altered by agricultural use in the past. Another comment made at the Keynote Luncheon was: environmentalists should try not to take dogmatic positions that are idealistic but not workable – try to be open to compromise**

T. Robbi also directed the members' attention to the recent publication of D&R Greenway Land Trust entitled "Happy Trails to You!" The guide highlights several walking trails available to the public and a couple of them are in East Amwell Township or in close proximity. Another publication he noted was the "Guide to Walking Trails in Hopewell Valley" – 19 trails are highlighted.

- e. **Site Review Committee – T. Robbi informed members that conservation easements will be marked on the Thompson Back Brook sub-division site.**
- f. **Public Outreach – No report received. However, M. Petrus did mention that fact that he would suggest that recycling at the 4-H Fair be reported at the Recycling Committee instead of the Environmental Commission. Members agreed.**
- g. **Conservation Easements – J. Bradstreet and M. Petrus met prior to tonight's meeting. J. Bradstreet indicated that he hoped to be able to send out three letters a month to residents with conservation easements. He will be starting in the Back Brook area and will be reviewing the current letter to residents involved.**
- h. **Stream Quality Assessment – D. Kellogg had nothing new to report on this topic. However, she did reference Dr. Qui's letter listed in the Last Minute Agenda items. The letter indicates that the "Developing a Watershed Restoration Plan for Neshanic River Watershed" grant has ended. Copies of the plan were delivered to NJDEP on 2/27/12. Data CD was also enclosed with the letter sent to Mayor Kneski.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

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CORRESPONDENCE: All correspondence was listed on the 3/26/12 agenda.

OPEN TO COMMISSION MEMBERS: D. Kellogg informed members that she has several knowledgeable volunteers who are interested in working on the trail rehabilitation project mentioned a prior meeting. T. Robbi will inform FOSPC. Acknowledgement of grant acceptance (involving these trails) is expected in September 2012.

T. Robbi attended the 3/1/12 Tree Harvesting Committee Meeting. He reported that there are problems with the content/wording of the present Tree Harvesting Ordinance. Most large tree removal occurs on tree farm sites. The “right to farm” issue enters into the picture. Several trees were removed from the Stahl property in anticipation of the solar installation and the Tree Harvesting Committee decided they could do nothing – statute of limitations has expired. T. Robbi stated that he will inform D. Sageser & E. Feinberg of his comments on this issue.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None present.

ADJOURN: 8:05 PM Motion for adjournment was received from J. Angelone and D. Kellogg 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

