

**MINUTES**  
**East Amwell Township Environmental Commission**  
**Business Meeting**  
**October 22, 2012**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The October 22, 2012 Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairperson, M. Petrus at 7:34 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, D. Sageser, T. Robbi, D. Kellogg, J. Bradstreet,  
E. Feinberg, J. Angelone, C. Plunkett, P. Iverson-Wang,  
J. Corboy (Secretary)

**ABSENT:** F. Clair, S. Grace, B. Hummel

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** No announcements were made.

**GUEST SPEAKER: Christian Plunkett**

M. Petrus introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Christian Plunkett. C. Plunkett stated that he realized that the adoption of a Shade Tree Ordinance at this time for East Amwell Township is out of the question. However, he did believe that he could provide valuable information along the lines of trees recommendations for the area and proper planting specifications. He also commented on the Clawson Park site. He provided a letter from Greenscapes Lawn & Landscape Services that would donate, at no cost, a half-day of root collar excavation work using an Air Spade to treat select trees at Clawson Park. He also had a letter from Amy S. Greene - Environmental Consultants, that offered to donate, at no cost, up to 20 hours of consulting time to the Township of East Amwell for the purpose of conducting a tree inventory of Clawson Park. Along with these two letters, he distributed some informational material, such as: "Getting to the Root of Tree Problems", "The Value of Trees to a Community", "Tree Liability Concerns for Homeowners", etc.. D. Sageser informed Mr. Plunkett that most of the trees in Clawson Park were donated from Rutgers Nursery. T. Robbi advised Mr. Plunkett that he should arrange a meeting with the Clawson Park Committee. Members agreed that it would be a valuable service to the residents to have the trees at Clawson Park identified with small plaques. E. Feinberg suggested that the informational material could be offered to the residents via the Township website. M. Petrus stated that this material could also be

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made available at the 4-H Fair booth. Mr. Plunkett inquired exactly what was the Township's objection to adopting a Shade Tree Ordinance. D. Sageser explained that since this is a very rural area, there is not a need for one – East Amwell has very few street trees – more a farmland community. Issues are different here in East Amwell Township. T. Robbi stated that the Township is not in the business of management of trees. Mr. Plunkett talked briefly about the Emerald Ash Borer and also had informational material on this problem.

**PRESENTATION OF MINUTES:                    September 24, 2012 – Business Meeting**

**The minutes of the September 24, 2012 Business Meeting were motioned for approval by T. Robbi, and with a second from D. Sageser, were approved with no corrections/additions/deletions. There were three abstentions.**

**LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA:**

- a. E-Mail message from T. Stahl, 10/22/12, re: Mtg. on Meszaros Site Situation (to be discussed under New Business)**

**PRESENTATION OF BILLS: None presented**

**REPORTS:**

- a. Planning Board – D. Sageser stated that the Solar Ordinance was sent back to the Planning Board for some fine tuning/amendments – preservation of farmland character, percentage of additional landscaping, no tear down of buildings and greater latitude in buffering. E. Feinberg suggested that some of Mr. Plunkett's materials be used as a guideline. M. Petrus informed members of some parking lots that are now installing solar panels above the actual parking facility. The Planning Board hopes to have the amended Solar Ordinance back to the Township Committee shortly, hopefully for a November or December hearing.**
- b. Township Committee – D. Sageser stated that he had nothing to report from the Township Committee.**
- c. Recycling Committee - M. Petrus reported that Depot Days are still reporting lower numbers. Good Will Industries truck was present at the October Depot and had a very poor turnout. He stated that the Recycling Committee hopes to do more advertising next year. Signs were posted concerning the Grit Yard opening during Depot Days. D. Sageser stated that the Township Committee decided to continue the opening of the Grit Yard during Depot Days through the winter months. East Amwell School is now requesting only cell phones and laptops.**

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**d. Farmland/Open Space Preservation – T. Robbi stated that a small property on Rileyville Road, near the County Park, is waiting to be appraised. A tentative subdivision is being worked on. This acquisition would allow the County to expand its parking area. The second area being worked on is the Barbara Hay Farm on Rainbow Hill and Wertsville Roads. It is a small piece that will be coupled with the original preservation on the southern section. T. Robbi also informed members of the Trails Ad-Hoc Committee. They will be meeting on Thursday AM and they plan to hack away at overgrown areas along the trails.**

**e. Site Review Committee – No report received.**

**f. Public Outreach – M. Petrus stated that Mr. Plunkett has several videos and informational items that might be useful for the 4-H Booth next year. These videos might also be available for the Plant Exchange Day. T. Robbi provided information on the preliminary plans for the Plant Exchange Day 2013. He contacted the previous organizers and hope to arrange a meeting between them and the new organizers. He stated that they should all be invited to the February 2013 Environmental Commission Meeting when we approve the support of this event. Patsy Wang Iverson and Joanne Cole will be organizing the 2013 event. Dick Ginman also will be available for assistance. Members once again discussed what to do with the monies earned from this event. E. Feinberg suggested making a fund/donation to the 4-H Club. Members discussed donating the excess monies to the Clawson Park Trust Fund. Rules and regulations for the event will have to be decided on and will be discussed at a future meeting.**

**g. Conservation Easements – J. Bradstreet stated that, so far, twelve (12) letters have gone out to residents having conservation easements on their property. Five (5) responses have been received and only two site visits have been accomplished so far. It is hoped that more site visits can be done this Fall. Three more names were given to the secretary for letters to be sent.**

**h. Stream Quality Assessment – No report received. M. Petrus called on members for comments on the draft stream corridor protection ordinances listed in tonight's agenda. (See T. Carluccio e-mail message) D. Kellogg stated that she believes that the ordinances would be politically unpopular. Enforcement is practically impossible – they are not effective – many exceptions are possible. E. Feinberg stated that they Environmental Commission should consider providing educational guidelines to all resident concerning stream corridor care, including the State requirements. Information was received that the River Friendly Keeper members visited farms last year and were not well received. T. Robbi briefly informed members of the background on the Sourland Alliance and the differences between**

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the other member municipalities and East Amwell Township. The Stream Ordinance applies to new development. East Amwell Township has not had any new development in years. Therefore, a stream ordinance is not needed in this community – too rural. E. Feinberg suggested that we have guidelines available to all at the website and at the 4-H Fair booth. Guidelines could also be provided when site visits are done for conservation easements.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

a. Updates on Well Water Testing - D. Kellogg reported that there were 46 participants for the Well Water Testing event – two no shows. Delivery of the testing bottles on October 9 went fairly smoothly. Residents paid attention to detail in filling out the forms. Results should be coming out shortly.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

a. Meeting on Meszaros Site Situation – T. Robbi briefly provided some background on the situation and explained that the Township is now waiting for environmental clearance. Meeting will be for the purpose of going over the vanadium results along the northern property boundary and to discuss the format of the letter report to be submitted to NJDEP. M. Petrus and D. Kellogg volunteered to attend the meeting on October 30.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** All correspondence was listed on the 10/22/12 agenda.

**OPEN TO COMMISSION MEMBERS:** No comments received.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** None present.

**ADJOURN: 8:38 PM** Motion for adjournment was received from D. Kellogg. T. Robbi seconded the motion. All were in favor.

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Joyce S. Corboy, Secretary

<b>cc: Env. Com. Members</b>	<b>Board of Adjustment</b>	<b>Board of Health</b>
<b>Twp. Com. &amp; Clerk</b>	<b>Democrat Newspaper</b>	<b>Recreation Com.</b>
<b>Twp. Bulletin Brd.</b>	<b>Trenton Times</b>	<b>Recycling Com.</b>
<b>Planning Board</b>	<b>Associate Members</b>	<b>Agric. Adv. Com.</b>
<b>Farmland &amp; Open Space Preservation</b>		