

**MINUTES**  
**East Amwell Township Environmental Commission**  
**Business Meeting**  
**March 25, 2013**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The March 25, 2013 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 31, 2013. 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, D. Sageser, J. Angelone, E. Johanson,  
B. Hummel, J. Corboy (Secretary)

**ABSENT:** D. Kellogg, J. Bradstreet, S. Grace

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** No announcements were made.

**PRESENTATION OF MINUTES:** February 25, 2013 – Business Meeting

The minutes of the February 25, 2013 Business Meeting were motioned for approval by T. Robbi, and with a second from J. Angelone, were approved with no corrections/deletions. There were two abstentions.

**LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA:** No additions to tonight's agenda.

**PRESENTATION OF BILLS:** M. Petrus presented an estimate for the construction of a new banner for the 4-H Fair Table in the amount of \$65 and asked for approval from the members to proceed with ordering it. J. Angelone made the motion to order a new banner and T. Robbi seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**REPORTS:**

a. Planning Board – D. Sageser stated that the Planning Board has approved the Preliminary Major Subdivision received for the Lang property, with some conditions. Reports from Banisch & Associates have been received and all requests made by the Planning Board were agreed to, such as a common driveway areas and

**East Amwell Township Environmental Commission Minutes**  
**March 25, 2013**  
**Page Two**

revised landscape plan. Common driveway areas were agreed to instead of a cul-de-sac, and this will leave a larger open space area.

b. Township Committee – D. Sageser stated that the Township Committee has been having many meetings concerning the 2013 budgets. He briefly explained about the deficit and how the Township Committee hopes to resolve it. Tentatively, a public hearing to introduce the budget is being planned for April 11. He also announced that the Chief Financial Officer resigned as of March 1 and that a new one has been named. He will work approximately 20 hours a week. D. Sageser stated that the Township Committee is considering hiring an additional Department of Public Work's member and that the proposed budgets will allow for it.

c. Recycling Committee – M. Petrus briefly explained that one of the members of the Recycling Committee gathered information on the Sustainable New Jersey/Green Team and their grant possibilities. Since D. Sageser did the initial work on the project and had the most information about the process, he was asked to respond to her inquiries.

M. Petrus went on to inform members about the recent troubles with the Depot Day – excessive amounts of garbage/construction debris left in the recycling dumpsters. He also informed members that the hours for Depot Days will be changing in April to 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon. There will be a Paper Shredding event held in conjunction with the May 4 Depot Day – free to all East Amwell Township residents. He made an inquiry recently and found out how plastic bags are being recycled – washed and re-used. A field trip, in conjunction with the East Amwell School, to a single stream recycling facility was also suggested by M. Petrus to the Recycling Committee. He thought it might be a good way to provide information to the students on the recycling process.

E. Johanson announced that F. Gavigan has volunteered her truck and a 20 x24 galvanized steel container for future Styrofoam recycling. Permission would have to be given by the Township Committee to store the container in the grit yard.

d. Farmland/Open Space Preservation – T. Robbi stated that the Green Fest was a great success – varied information was provided to our residents as well as to each other. He also briefed members on a new preservation application – Plimpton property of approximately 20 – 30 acres on Rileyville Road just north of the Hunterdon County Park area – one house, some buildings and 2 ponds. This would allow more parking for those wishing to access the park. The County Open Space Committee has already approved it. Appraisal has to be obtained and the owners would have to agree to it. Another site, Perkovich farm on the east side of Rynearson Road has applied directly to the State for preservation.

**East Amwell Township Environmental Commission**  
**March 25, 2013**  
**Page Three**

- e. **Site Review Committee – No report received from this Committee.**
- f. **Public Outreach – M. Petrus reported on a conversation he had with S. Ernst in which she stated that her Environmental Club at the school had only 4-5 members. E. Johanson asked if other schools outside the Township, perhaps high schools, could be approached about joining the Environmental Commission, stating that high school students often have to provide community service information on their college applications. T. Robbi stated that only ten percent of the students at Hunterdon Central High School are from East Amwell Township. J. Angelone volunteered to check with the high school’s Environmental Club.**
- g. **Conservation Easements – J. Bradstreet was absent this evening. Thus, no report was received.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **Discussion – ANJEC Grant – Trail Project – T. Robbi briefly explained that it was decided that the Omick property would be a good project for this grant application – parking area has to be defined, stones will be needed for the parking area, and a consultant would be needed to lay out the trails. A commitment from the Township has been obtained to utilize members of the DPW to do some of the work. It was decided that \$800 to \$1500 would be an appropriate amount to request. T. Robbi made the motion that the Environmental Commission would apply for an ANJEC grant. J. Angelone seconded the motion and all were in favor. M. Petrus, T. Robbi, D & R Greenway, T. Matheny and FOSPC will work on this grant application and project, if approved. T. Robbi also informed members that Alan Hershey and members of the New Jersey Trails Association will be joining their group in September to work on these trails for a period of one year. This will be a great help to the project because of their expertise and equipment available.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:** All correspondence was listed on the 3/25/13 agenda.

**OPEN TO COMMISSION MEMBERS:** M. Petrus suggested that a picnic be held at Clawson Park for all Township volunteers, past and present. He also proposed that the Environmental Commission consider supporting the efforts of Raritan Headwaters Association next year in a stream clean-up effort here in East Amwell Township.

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

**East Amwell Township Environmental Commission  
March 25, 2013  
Page Four**

**ADJOURN: 8:30 PM** Motion for adjournment was received from T. Robbi and J. Angelone seconded the motion. All were in favor.

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**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**