

MINUTES
East Amwell Township Environmental Commission
Business Meeting
April 22, 2013
7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: The April 22, 2013 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 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. Kellogg, J. Bradstreet, S. Grace,
B. Hummel, J. Corboy (Secretary)

ABSENT: D. Sageser, J. Angelone, E. Johanson

ANNOUNCEMENTS: No announcements were made.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES: March 25, 2013 – Business Meeting

The minutes of the March 25, 2013 Business Meeting were motioned for approval by T. Robbi, and with a second from M. Petrus, were approved with no additions/corrections/deletions. There were three abstentions.

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

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.
- c. Recycling Committee – M. Petrus informed members that liability insurance is providing an obstacle to further recycling of Styrofoam. B. Hummel briefly reported on Roadside Clean-Up Day stating that he does not have the exact figures compiled, but he believes that count is very close to last year. He informed members

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that he had one couple who did a stream clean-up on Welisewitz Road and had quite a bit of refuse. T. Robbi reminded members that Raritan Headwaters Association does a yearly stream clean-up. M. Petrus stated that next year he hopes that the Environmental Commission will be able to participate in a stream clean-up and that it might be a good idea to coordinate Stream Clean-Up with Roadside Clean-Up. B. Hummel suggested that Stream Clean-Up be done the week before and have volunteers deposit the bags of garbage along the roadside for pick-up the following week during Roadside Clean-Up. B. Hummel reminded members that sometimes rubber tires are used to build up a stream bank and should not be removed. M. Petrus inquired if permission would be needed or required to walk on resident's property. B. Hummel suggested contacting Raritan Headwaters Association for full information on any of these concerns.

Paper shredding date is set for May 4 and all plans are in place.

d. Farmland/Open Space Preservation – T. Robbi stated that the 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) is set for appraisal shortly. Preservation of this property would allow more parking for those wishing to access the park. The County Open Space Committee has already approved it. Work has started on organizing some wooded lots on Ridge Road for preservation, adding to existing preserved land. FOSPC Administrator, Judy Conard, is retiring and a search has been started for a new administrator. Anyone interested should inform Glorianne Robbi.

e. Site Review Committee – No report received from this Committee.

f. Public Outreach – M. Petrus reported that all plans for Plant Swap are in place. Tree expert, Mr. Plunkett, will be present. Signs have been prepared and displays from Green Fest will also be used. T. Robbi stated that he will be present part of the time and that he will bring samples of invasive plants.

M. Petrus stated that he just received information about an intern program from Rutgers University. Applications are being accepted for an intern that would be available to perform 125 hours of environmental work. April 26 is the deadline. M. Petrus asked if anyone had an idea of how we could use this intern. S. Grace stated that we could organize maps, via GIS, of trails, land areas with public access and stream/waterway areas. Maps could be on exhibit at the Municipal Building. B. Hummel suggested some work on updating the NRI might be a possibility. Working with conservation easements might also be valuable both to the Township and to the intern. Stream mapping and surveying the streams for debris might also be helpful for next year's stream clean-up. D. Kellogg suggested that updating the materials available for the 4-H Fair might also be a good suggestion--providing new questions and updating of the game will be most helpful. J. Corboy reminded M. Petrus that

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he should check on the status of the insurance factor. Is insurance provided by Rutgers? T. Robbi suggested the Trail Project might be another aspect of work an intern could perform. He stated that the ANJEC grant application has been submitted and they are hoping to hear from ANJEC in approximately two weeks.. He is hoping that the Trail project could proceed even if the grant is not given. He has a good number of volunteers, however, most of them can only work on the weekends. T. Robbi also briefly updated members on the work being done on the trail project along Stony Brook. M. Petrus will prepare the Rutgers application and will send a rough draft out to members this coming week.

g. Conservation Easements – J. Bradstreet stated that he did not have anything new to report. He will be preparing another group of names to give to the secretary for the next set of letters. He is hoping that with the warm weather more site visits can be performed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None presented
NEW BUSINESS: None presented.

CORRESPONDENCE: All correspondence was listed on the 4/22/13 agenda.

OPEN TO COMMISSION MEMBERS: No comments received.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None present.

ADJOURN: 8:08 PM Motion for adjournment was received from T. Robbi 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		