

## MINUTES

### East Amwell Township Environmental Commission Reorganization & Business Meeting

January 27, 2014

7:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The January 27, 2014 Reorganization Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order by M. Prendamano at 7:38 PM. In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, M. Prendamano announced that this is the Reorganization Meeting of the Environmental Commission, as published in the Hunterdon County Democrat on December 19, 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:** J. Bradstreet, D. Kellogg, T. Robbi, S. Grace, D. Sageser, J. Angelone,  
E. Johanson, J. Frederick.  
M. Prendamano (secretary)

**ABSENT:** B. Hummel

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** No announcements were made.

**NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIRPERSON:** M. Prendamano opened the nominations for the position of Chairperson and J. Bradstreet seconded the motion. T. Robbi nominated S. Grace for the position of Chairperson. This motion was seconded by D. Kellogg. No other nominations were received. Vote was unanimously in favor. S. Grace was elected as Chairperson for 2014.

**NOMINATIONS FOR VICE-CHAIRPERSON:** M. Prendamano opened the nominations for Vice-Chairperson and was seconded by T. Robbi. S. Grace nominated D. Kellogg for Vice-Chairperson. T. Robbi seconded the nomination. No other nominations were received. Vote was unanimously in favor. Motion to close all nominations was received from T. Robbi and seconded by J. Bradstreet. Vote was unanimously in favor. D. Kellogg was elected as Vice-Chairperson.

#### **READING AND ADOPTION OF 2014 RESOLUTION:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Environmental Commission of the Township of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that during 2014, the Environmental Commission will hold regularly scheduled meetings on the fourth Monday of each month. **THE DECEMBER MEETING WILL NOT BE HELD.**

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**The MAY meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 28, 2014, because of the Memorial Day holiday on May 26.**

**All regular meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m., prevailing time in the Main Meeting Room of the East Amwell Township Municipal Building, 1070 US Route 202/31, Ringoes, New Jersey.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all items to be considered for the agenda shall be presented to the Environmental Commission Secretary no later than one week prior to the scheduled meeting, and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be published in the Hunterdon County Democrat.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all items to be considered for the agenda shall be presented to the Environmental Commission Secretary no later than one week prior to the scheduled meeting, and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be published in the Hunterdon County Democrat.**

T. Robbi makes Motion to adopt Resolution. S. Grace seconds Motion.

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

- a. Site Review – T. Robbi, J. Frederick, J. Angelone, E. Johanson (alternate)
- b. Public Outreach/4-H Fair – D. Kellogg, E. Johanson, J. Angelone, S. Grace
- c. Conservation Easements – J. Bradstreet, J. Frederick, T. Robbi (alternate)

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

The minutes of the November 25, 2013 business meeting were motioned for approval by S. Grace, and with a second from T. Robbi were approved with no changes/additions/deletions. There were two abstentions from J. Frederick and J. Bradstreet.

**PRESENTATION OF BILLS:**

- a. ANJEC – Membership Renewal – Dues (seven members) - \$290.00
- Workshop Plan - 60.00

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T. Robbi made the motion to renew the ANJEC Membership and pay Renewal Fee and Workshop Plan. J. Angelone seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

**REPORTS:**

- a. Planning Board – D. Sageser discussed the undertaking of a study of the village of Ringoes. It is an opportunity to get input from residents of historic district in an attempt to facilitate improvements. This addresses the maintenance of properties. There has been talk of tax abatements for residents making improvements to their properties. This will be addressed next month by the planning board. Will Harrison will be on the sub-committee. Another item discussed was the keeping of animals (farm and non-farm) on properties. The discussion involved a complaint. The zoning officer brought up the fact that the ordinance is not clear about parameters for keeping animals. Efforts are being made to find best practice standards for our rural, farm based community.
- b. Township Committee – D. Sageser commented about the Reorganization of the Township Committee and his election as Mayor. David Wang Iverson has been appointed Deputy Mayor. Charles Van Horne replaced Pat Cregar. Also, on committee are members Tim Mathews and Peter Miller. Committee has been delayed with snow closures.
- c. Recycling Committee – J. Bradstreet informed members that there has been much talk about schedule and trying to set up for the year. They spoke about the newsletter and compiling the articles that will be in it from the Recycling Committee and Environmental Committee. D. Kellogg suggested adding information on well water testing to articles. T. Robbi suggested advertising Green Fest, 4H Fair and Trail Opening in May. E. Johanson stated that S. Katz asked to please get articles before Recycling Committee meeting on February 11, 2014. J. Angelone and D. Kellogg will work on the well water testing aspect for the article. D. Kellogg suggested inviting Raritan Headwaters to Green Fest. Roadside Clean-Up Day will be 4/12/14 – Saturday. Plant Exchange will be held on May 3, 2014 – Saturday. Green Fest will be held on April 5, 2014 – Saturday. E. Johanson stated that during February and March the Recycling depot will be taking Styrofoam from packaging. The depot will be trying something new with regard to recycling/redistributing power cables, computer connections, old cell phones. Boxes will be set up for exchange/recycle.
- d. Farmland/Open Space Preservation – T. Robbi informed members that this committee also reorganized. G. Robbi is the Chairperson and Dickerman is the Vice-Chairperson. There are several projects in various states of development. There is a woodlot at the top of the mountain which is adjacent to the Higgins property that we hope will someday get preserved. We have been offered this property as a donation. Some costs will be

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incurred for a survey and appraisal. The property has no road frontage and is located among other preserved properties.

e. Site Review Committee – T. Robbi stated that there is a resolution from the Zoning Board with regard to the Hess station on 202/31. They were going to put something in there with regard to drainage but the Hess station owns about ½ acre in the jug handle. Storm water regulations do not apply because the property is too small. Also, there is a horse operation proposal for a property on Linvale Road near Route 31. It is an old (historic) colonial house. This application has not been deemed complete by the zoning board. It may be complete in February wherein this Committee discussed looking at it. T. Robbi discussed some of the environmental issues such as storm water regulations and the situation of trees and riparian coverage along streams. They are proposing an 80,000 square foot indoor arena. This is a major equestrian operation. J. Frederick offered to attend next zoning board meeting.

f. Public Outreach – D. Kellogg stated that the public outreach committee has been reorganized. She would like to make a point of revamping the questions for the wheel at the 4H Fair and would like to get the environmental club at the school involved. She will reach out to Ms. Ernst. T. Robbi discussed having a table with a banner at the Green Fest and he volunteered to be there. T. Robbi would like to get information together to be distributed or displayed. Also, T. Robbi would like Environmental Commissions presence at the plant exchange. He would like to include a display of invasive plant species and literature about native plant species. He also discussed the Environmental Commissions involvement in the Trail Opening. T. Robbi offered to lead a hike in the Rocktown Woods preserve. He discussed the benefits of having two people on a trail hike. S. Grace is willing to do this with T. Robbi on Sunday morning April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014, following the Green Fest.

g. Conservation Easements – J. Bradstreet reported that there was nothing to report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. Roadside Clean-Up Day:** T. Robbi moved to approve Saturday, April 12, 2014 for Roadside Clean Up day and delegate the organization of this to Blaine Hummel. S. Grace seconded. All members where in favor.

**b. Plant Exchange:** T. Robbi moved to schedule the Plant Exchange to take place in Clawson Park on Saturday, May 12, 2014 to be conducted by Joann Cole and her subcommittee. J. Bradstreet seconded. All members were in favor.

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**c. Request for Letters of Support for 319(h) Grant for East Amwell Township** – D. Sageser can forward Grant to members. D. Sageser stated that S. Souza of Princeton Hydro will be the lead in this grant application for storm water management. The Sourland Mountains is one of the five storm water management plans in New Jersey. D. Sageser stated that S. Souza is going to propose three sites with documented drainage issues. One being Clawson Park the other is located at the school and the last are the Municipal ball fields. D. Sageser has been reaching out to various legislators and organizations for letters in support of this grant. Leonard Lance agreed to write a letter in support. The Freeholders are considering one as well. The copy of the template letter is available for members to look at. M. Prendamano will email members with a copy of the sample grant letter. D. Kellogg inquired as to whether or not the 319(h) has a matching program. D. Sageser stated that they do but only in volunteer hours. T. Robbi observed that the township has not voted to apply for this grant. D. Sageser said it was discussed at the last township meeting. T. Robbi suggested making a motion to send a resolution to the township committee supporting the grant application. D. Sageser seconded. All members are in favor. T. Robbi suggested that it is included in the letter that this Commission has been involved in this kind of activity before and should site our experience. He suggested making mention of the rain garden in Clawson Park. D. Kellogg and T. Robbi volunteered to compose this letter.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** All correspondence was listed on the 1/27/14 agenda.  
**LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS:**  
None

**OPEN TO COMMISSION MEMBERS:** T. Robbi discussed that there is another grant opportunity from ANJEC. He stated that there is a mini grant available to Environmental Commissions for projects that enhance their public outreach. He discussed the building of a new trail at the tributaries at Route 518. There is a parking place for patrons. There is a need for several wooden bridges over ravines. There is a problem with the State with regard to building the trail and maintaining it. T. Robbi is suggesting we forgo applying this year as there is still a question as to whether or not we can move forward with the trail. He suggested putting it on the calendar for 2015. D. Sageser brought up the issue of brush pick up. The question has been raised as to whether or not to bring it back. He stated that it was quite popular with the residents. DPW has a new superintendant Jason Silverthorn. D. Sageser stated that J. Silverthorn that it could take four weeks to conduct a pick up. Pick up was done once in the Fall. T. Robbi does not want to encourage people to pick up dead brush in the woods. E. Johanson suggested setting limits and charging a fee for additional brush.

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**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: No further comments received.**

**ADJOURN: 9:06 PM. Motion for adjournment was received from and S. Grace seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

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Maria Prendamano, 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