

MINUTES
East Amwell Township Environmental Commission
Business Meeting
February 24, 2014
7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: The February 24, 2014 Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairperson, S. Grace at 7:36 PM.

In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, S. Grace announced that this is the Regular Business 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 on February 18, 2014.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: S. Grace, T. Robbi, J. Frederick, D. Kellogg, B. Hummel, D. Sageser, M. Prendamano (Secretary)

ABSENT: E. Johanson, J. Bradstreet, J. Angelone,

ANNOUNCEMENTS: No announcements were made.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES: January 27, 2014 – Reorganization Meeting

The minutes of the January 27, 2014 Reorganization Meeting were presented for approval. T. Robbi noted some typographic corrections to page 4 and 5. Corrections were noted by M. Prendamano. T. Robbi motioned for corrected minutes to be approved with a second from J. Frederick, corrected minutes were approved.

OPEN TO PUBLIC: Gloriann Robbi spoke about the Environmental and Recycling Newsletter. She stated that it was very clear and well done. Mrs. Robbi wanted to express how delighted she was with the workmanship that went into putting the newsletter together.

B. Hummel wanted to take an opportunity to thank the commission for supporting in the 27th annual Roadside Cleanup. He will be sending Shoprite a letter requesting food items for volunteers. He had a question about the roll off containers that have been ordered for that day. B. Hummel stated that our standard order of a 10 cubic yard roll off may be more than is needed. B. Hummel is wondering who pays for the 10 cubic yard roll off? In his past experience it has only been filled one third of the way. Does the Environmental Commission or the Recycling

East Amwell Township Environmental Commission Minutes
February 24, 2014
Page Two

Commission pay for this? Also, B. Hummel was concerned with what might be dumped into the container after the event. D. Kellogg stated that it is not in the Environmental Commission's budget to pay for these containers. B. Hummel was wondering if our township receives credit for the recyclable materials collected that day. D. Sageser noted that the Township gets credit on our state forms. M. Prendamano stated that RVD provides us with a weight in tonnage each month for collected recyclable materials. B. Hummel expressed a concern that the container with the recyclables can easily be contaminated with non-recyclable materials. T. Robbi noted that there would be no way to protect this from happening. J. Frederick added that the recyclable materials would have to be separated. D. Kellogg stated that volunteers do the sorting. Volunteers doing the collection at the Roadside Clean-up will be sorting trash as the materials are collected. D. Kellogg suggested asking the Recycling Commission to consider ordering a 3 cubic yard roll off. B. Hummel suggested speaking to T. Matheny about this issue.

B. Hummel introduced a discussion on stream clean-up. He has been in contact with Raritan Watershed. The watershed association requires an insurance waiver. B. Hummel shared an insurance rider from our company that he obtained from T. Stahl. The Watershed requires a liaison to collect food and vests for volunteers and ensure the return of these items. This liaison also has to ensure that the waste is collected and left for RVD. The Watershed also asks for a \$300 donation. B. Hummel asks that the Commission consider whether to do the stream clean-up as part of the Roadside Clean-up or to conduct it separately. He suggests getting a team of four volunteers to conduct a stream clean-up in an effort to keep it safe. D. Sageser brought up that volunteers should probably stay within thirty feet of a bridge in order to avoid traversing on private property. T. Robbi noted that there has been quite a lot of dumping at the bridges. He suggests that the clean-up be conducted at or near the bridges. He also noted that tires and larger pieces of garbage should be left on the scene and photographed for future removal. T. Robbi also said that Raritan Headwaters does not cover the whole township. B. Hummel learned that there were one dozen volunteers registered with the Raritan Headwaters that are residents of East Amwell. He suggested that the Commission reach out to them and ask them to volunteer for our Roadside Clean-up. B. Hummel will contact Raritan Headwaters and let them know the Commissions intentions. He also noted that he will report collections to them. He asks that the Commission consider which streams and bridges be targeted that day. S. Grace asked B. Hummel if Raritan Headwaters has a safety write up sheet with guidelines for volunteers to follow. B. Hummel will follow up with that. S. Grace made a

**East Amwell Township Environmental Commission
February 24, 2014
Page Three**

Motion to approve adding the stream clean up to the Roadside Clean-up. Motion was seconded by D. Sageser. All members were in favor and motion was approved.

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

PRESENTATION OF BILLS: ANJEC Membership renewal. The additional fee for the workshop was not paid for. Our budget is less than the amount needed. D. Sageser stated that he requested that the full amount be paid. M. Prendamano will follow up with C. Rosikiewicz. A discussion ensued about the workshop schedule.

REPORTS:

a. Planning Board – D. Sageser discussed the sub-committee that has been set up to do a study of the village of Ringoes. They are planning to send out a questionnaire. This questionnaire would be open to any resident to submit. The focus is on the village but open to all residents of East Amwell. The questionnaire will be posted in the VIP and on the Township website as well. David Wang Iverson is chairing this sub-committee. The committee is hoping to come up with some incentives for residents to make repairs to properties via tax abatements. There are some grants that will be used to make improvements to the Clawson House. One will be to repair the foundation and the other will involve the exterior of the building.

b. Township Committee – D. Sageser reported that the position for a part time CFO has been posted. He noted that it has been difficult to maintain a CFO as the part time position is not appealing to most qualified candidates.

c. Recycling Committee – M. Prendamano reported that the Newsletter was compiled and sent out to residents. There was a cable cord table set up and two large bags were collected for recycling and reuse. Styrofoam recycling collection will continue until April. The Commission applied for a grant from Dr. Pepper for recycling bins to be placed in the municipal fields. Green Fest was discussed. M. Prendamano is going to secure the equipment to set up for a video presentation from the Recycling Commission.

d. Farmland/Open Space Preservation – T. Robbi reported that the Open Space Commission is still working on some project with nothing notable to report. The Green Fest is the big concern right now. Any ideas or suggestions can be made to G. Robbi. T. Robbi would like to ask if any of the Commission members can commit to serve a shift at the Environmental Commission's table. He also would like to review some of the materials available for presentation. D. Kellogg stated that there are some materials available as well as information on the trails. She would like to

**East Amwell Township Environmental Commission
February 24, 2014
Page Four**

schedule a water sampling with Raritan Headwaters in order to have that information available as well. She would like this information shared with the school. S. Grace asked how he can obtain a copy of the Open Space Trail Map. T. Robbi said there is one available. The new trail will not be on the map yet. Work on the new trail has been suspended due to the weather. D. Kellogg planned to sort through the presentation materials with S. Grace, T. Robbi and J. Frederick on March 4th in the evening.

e. Site Review Committee – T. Robbi discussed the Linvale horse farm project. This has been suspended due to the snow cover. S. Grace asked if there has been a traffic study done on the corner of Linvale Road and Route 31. T. Robbi did not see one.

f. Public Outreach – D. Kellogg stated that J. Angelone was going to follow up with the water sampling but has been unable to do so. She has not been able to get together with Ms. Ernst from the school's environmental club yet.

g. Conservation Easements – J. Bradstreet is absent but relayed to M. Prendamano that there have not been any inspections due to snow cover. He is updating the log of residents who have received our letter and will copy J. Frederick and T. Robbi when complete. He is hoping to schedule some inspections in March.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Letters in Support of 319(h) Grant: M. Prendamano will follow up with the East Amwell Township School Board of Education to find out if they submitted a letter in support.
- b. Roadside Clean up – has already been discussed.
- c. Plant Exchange – Nothing to note.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. 2014 Goals – Preliminary Discussion – Members reviewed the 2013 Goals. T. Robbi would like to add Green Fest to the Goals. S. Grace would like to improve the Environmental Commission's website. D. Kellogg noted that it has not been updated. S. Grace would like to add four different field trips to open space properties. D. Kellogg would like to add water testing as well. All members voted in favor of these changes. S. Grace made a motion to approve the 2014 goals, D. Sageser moved to approve with a second from D. Kellogg. M. Prendamano will make the discussed changes and forward the 2014 goals to Commission members.

CORRESPONDENCE: All correspondence was listed on the 2/24/14 agenda.

East Amwell Township Environmental Commission
February 24, 2014
Page Five

A discussion ensued about a letter from RBZ Enterprises with regard to the placement of a new septic at the school. She noted that the plans for said septic are available for committee members to view at their offices in Clinton. Future correspondence will be scanned and forwarded to Commission members by M. Prendamano.

OPEN TO COMMISSION MEMBERS: No comments received.

ADJOURN: 8:54 PM Motion for adjournment was received from D. Kellogg and J. Frederick seconded the motion. All were in favor.

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

