

MINUTES
East Amwell Township Environmental Commission
Business Meeting
May 28, 2014
7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: The May 28, 2014 Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order by D. Kellogg at 7:33 p.m. In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, D. Kellogg 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 May 19, 2014.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: T. Robbi, D. Kellogg, D. Sageser, S. Grace, J. Bradstreet, E. Johanson, M. Prendamano (Secretary)

ABSENT: J. Angelone, J. Frederick

ANNOUNCEMENTS: No announcements were made.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES: April 28, 2014

The minutes of the April 28, 2014 Business Meeting were presented for approval. T. Robbi noted a spelling error. D. Kellogg motioned for corrected minutes to be approved with a second from T. Robbi, minutes were approved by all with one abstention from E. Johanson.

INVOICES: Invoice from Omick Property. Has been paid and is in need of a signature. D. Kellogg will sign it.

OPEN TO PUBLIC: B. Hummel was present as a member of the public. He came to present details from the Roadside Clean-Up and the Stream Crossing Report. They had about 89 volunteers and did about 95% of the township roads as well as bits of the County roads and areas around the lake. There was a photograph in the Democrat but no write up. Details were published in the VIP. There were 6 ½ cubic yards of general trash and 3 cubic yards of recyclable trash. Most of the recyclables were water bottles as opposed to mostly beer bottles in the past. B. Hummel brought one of the interesting items collected were sky lanterns also known as wish lanterns. It is a paper lantern that holds a tea candle. The paper part will break down but the metal insert will not.

B. Hummel also noted that this year the team did stream crossings. John Buckwalter assisted in organizing this effort. They recovered a former inflatable kayak. Pieces of tarp and steel posts were also found. They collected four 32 gallons of trash from the stream crossings. There was less trash and dumping than in years past. They did discover some 5 foot tractor tires and rims at the Cider Mill Bridge. They were left in place. They are not interfering with the flow of the stream. B. Hummel noted that some of the volunteers consisted of Girl Scouts and a bike riding club.

LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS: No additions to tonight's agenda.

REPORTS:

- a. Planning Board – D. Sageser reported that there was good attendance at the two Ringoes Village meetings. There were some good and useful suggestions and discussions of a property maintenance ordinance. Also, residents suggested work groups to complete restorations. Traffic patterns were also brought up. The intersections in Ringoes do not comply with the State Traffic Standards. They are wide and yield intersections that are not pedestrian friendly. There is hope that the County gets involved with regard to funding for streets that accommodate people, bikes and cars.**
- b. Township Committee – D. Sageser reported that the Committee discussed a property maintenance ordinance. It is unclear how to distinguish farm structures from structures in the village. They hope to set some criteria for residents. J. Fredericks has been elevated to full status on the Environmental Commission.**
- c. Recycling Committee – J. Bradstreet reported that there was a wonderful presentation by two students at the last meeting. They hope to become full youth members of the committee. E. Johanson reported that the committee worked on a letter to the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders regarding recycling procedures at the Fairgrounds. M. Prendamano reported that the committee is encouraging proper recycling procedures at the ball fields. The Recycling Committee and the Recreation Committee are working together to address this issue. D. Kellogg suggested educating parents and coaches with regard to procedures. The Recycling Committee is considering attending the parent information night next year at the kick off of the season.**
- d. Farmland/Open Space Preservation – T. Robbi reported that the Plimpton Property is a 20 plus acre parcel just north of the park may become part Preserved land. There are some open ponds on the property. The property is part of an estate so the procedure can be lengthy.**

T. Robbi also reported that there are two pieces of property being proposed as additions to the Cat Tail Brook. These properties would provide a place to put a trail. There is a tower on one of the properties. It is no longer functioning. T. Robbi noted that part of the plan is to keep the forest joined with the County park.

- e. Site Review Committee – T. Robbi reported that a site review was completed on the DeGoia property on Back Brook. The hearing is scheduled for this month. New Market Farm will also be heard on the same day. T. Robbi prepared a report regarding the DeGoia property and New Market Farm. The DeGoia property is undersized. Back Brook runs right through the middle of the property.**
- f. Public Outreach/4H Fair – D. Kellogg stated that there is nothing to report with regard to the 4H Fair. She did report on the Well Testing. On June 4th samples will be collected at the Municipal Building. The test kits are available now. She prepared information to be sent out to the school families.**
- g. Conservation Easements – J. Bradstreet reported that he does not have the format for the report. T. Robbi recommended looking in the old files. D. Kellogg may have an email version to forward. J. Bradstreet has a question about drainage easements and an email from M. Andrews regarding to an issue on Back Brook. He is asking if our commission is covering drainage easements. D. Kellogg explained that we have compiled information regarding drainage easements however she does not believe that this commission does any inspections with regard to drainage easements.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Tax Mailing – The commission discussed what they would like to include in this mailing. E. Johanson would like to include information on the Emerald Ash Borer. She will forward flyer to M. Prendamano for inclusion.**
- b. Vacancy for Chairperson – D. Kellogg suggested that E. Johanson be nominated for Chairperson. D. Sageser nominated E. Johanson as Chairperson. D. Kellogg seconded this motion. All members unanimously voted E. Johanson as Chairperson.**

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Hunterdon County Community Day – M. Prendamano reported that the Commission is invited to participate or use this as an opportunity to share information. E. Johanson will attend and bring along some handouts left over from Greenfest.**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None present.

CORRESPONDENCE: All correspondence was listed on the 5/28/14 agenda.

OPEN TO COMMISSION MEMBERS: T. Robbi mentioned that about 20 people attended the trail opening. All of the grant money was used. Boy Scout Troop 65 offered to adopt the trail and continue to maintain it. An Eagle Scout of Troop 65 wants to make a kiosk for the trail. He will be in touch with M. Prendamano with the details of his proposed project. She will present the details to the commission for their approval.

ADJOURN: 8:58 PM Motion for adjournment was received from D. Kellogg and T. Robbi 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**