

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

CALL TO ORDER: The July 28, 2014 Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order by E. Johanson at 7:35 p.m. In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, E. Johanson 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 July 23, 2014.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: E. Johanson, T. Robbi, J. Bradstreet, D. Schleifer, M. Prendamano(Secretary),

ABSENT: J. Angelone, B. Hummel, D. Kellogg, D. Sageser, J. Frederick

ANNOUNCEMENTS: No announcements were made.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES: June 23, 2014

The minutes of the June 23, 2014 Business Meeting were presented for approval by E. Johanson. She suggested a correction to the second page in the 'easement' paragraph. With only two of the four members present being able to vote, the minutes of the June 23, 2014 Business meeting will be held over for approval at next month's meeting.

INVOICES: None

LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS: E. Johanson took an opportunity to introduce the Commission's newest member Doug Schleifer. D. Schleifer gave the Commission an overview of his previous experience. He has recently moved to East Amwell and has served on the Environmental Commission's in Franklin Township and Princeton.

REPORTS:

- a. Planning Board – No member present to report
- b. Township Committee No member present to report.
- c. Recycling Committee- E. Johanson announced that the Recycling Committee has recently added three youth members. The children are attempting to find a viable market for Styrofoam. They have been unable to contact the company Princeton Molding. They have a few other leads they will pursue.

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- d. Farmland/Open Space Preservation – T. Robbi reported that Farmland/Open Space Preservation did not meet last month. They are working on a Green Acres application for future projects.**
- e. Site Review Committee – M. Prendamano reported that there is a variance application for the site of Peacock's. T. Robbi heard informally that the owner of the property would like to reproduce what was there with the exclusion of the store. The Commission will look at the application.**
- f. Public Outreach/4H Fair –M. Prendamano reported that D. Kellogg has submitted an application for a table and will be forwarding a list of available volunteer slots. E. Johanson will reach out to D. Kellogg to coordinate the transport of the tables and set up and break down.**
- g. Conservation Easements – J. Bradstreet prepared a list of current conservation easements. He submitted a report on the DeGoia property with the Commission's recommendations. E. Johanson suggested that D. Schleifer work in conjunction with J. Bradstreet with regard to easements. M. Prendamano will search for the master list of easements and attempt to get a digital copy of the Township open space map. The commission will take a look at conservation and recreation easements in particular.**

T. Robbi suggested that ANJEC be utilized as a source of educational material for landowners with regard to easements. He also believes that there is grant money available for property owners with easements that can be used to replace vegetation destroyed in Sandy. T. Robbi also noted that the Commission has a Memorandum of Understanding pending through the State for a trail that goes through property belonging to Rambling Pines. M. Prendamano will get information from T. Stahl with regard to the status of the application. E. Johanson suggested that the Commission make a list of guide lines for the easement subcommittee with regard to the number of site inspections done per year along with a list of goals. T. Robbi added that the Township policy allows for yearly inspections. E. Johanson suggested that the Commission look at the deed before the site inspection is done. M. Prendamano noted that some of the property used by the AVTA above Back Brook suffered damage from Sandy and other storms. T. Robbi noted that it is the responsibility of the AVTA members to maintain the trails unless the property is privately owned. The Commission will further investigate

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easements and attempt to put together a master list using the Open Space maps and the files maintained in the Township.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The Environmental Commission's Budget was presented for review. E. Johanson reviewed the budget. ANJEC dues and workshop fees were paid. E. Johanson feels that the budget is adequate. Raritan Headwaters membership (\$100) is due and will be presented for payment next month. E. Johanson noted that she would like to find out what it would cost to have a movie shown by Jared Flesher at the municipal building. M. Prendamano will investigate. T. Robbi pointed out that the Commission should consider the money needed to be spent for prizes for the 4H table.

NEW BUSINESS: None

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: T. Robbi moved that the Commission opens to the public. D. Schleifer seconded the motion. All members were in favor of opening to the public.

John Buckwalter was present from the public. He expressed an interest in possibly joining the Environmental Commission. He would like to attend a few meetings before he considers this. He also stated that his wife is the President of the AVTA and he will alert her as to the condition of the trails behind Back Brook Road. He noted that those particular trails are very difficult to get to with equipment. The terrain is tough to maneuver. T. Robbi, E. Johanson and M. Prendamano all volunteered to assist Mrs. Buckwalter with the maintenance of those particular trails. T. Robbi moved to close to the public. E. Johanson seconded. All members were in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE: All correspondence was listed on the 7/28/14 agenda.

OPEN TO COMMISSION MEMBERS: E. Johanson mentioned that she will need copies of the Emerald Ash Borer Flyer for the 4H Fair. She hopes to distribute them and reach a larger audience. There is an inoculation for this pest which has been discovered in Somerset County.

ADJOURN: 8:18 PM Motion for adjournment was received from T. Robbi

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and seconded by D. Schleifer. All members were in favor of adjournment.

Respectfully submitted:

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