

MINUTES
East Amwell Township Environmental Commission
Business Meeting
August 25, 2014
7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: The August 25, 2014 Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order by E. Johanson at 7:31 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 August 20, 2014.

ROLL CALL:

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: No announcements were made.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES: June 23, 2014 and July 28, 2014

The minutes of the June 23, 2014 Business Meeting were presented for approval by E. Johanson. D. Kellogg made a motion to approve the June 23rd, 2014 meeting minutes. E. Johanson seconded the motion. All members were in favor of approval with three abstentions from J. Bradstreet, D. Schleifer and T. Robbi.

The minutes of the July 28th, 2014 Business Meeting were presented for approval by E. Johanson with a correction to two paragraphs. T. Robbi made a motion to approve the corrected minutes of July 28th, 2014. The motion was seconded by E. Johanson. All members were in favor of approval with three abstentions from D. Schleifer, D. Kellogg and J. Frederick.

INVOICES: An invoice was presented by E. Johanson for \$100 for membership dues for Raritan Headwaters. T. Robbi made a motion to approve the invoice with a second from D. Kellogg. All members were unanimously in favor of approving the invoice.

LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS: None

REPORTS:

- a. Planning Board – No member present to report.
- b. Township Committee - No member present to report.

MINUTES
East Amwell Township Environmental Commission
Business Meeting
August 25, 2014
7:30 p.m.

- c. **Recycling Committee-** M. Prendamano reported that J. Bradstreet has resigned much to the regret of the Committee. She also stated that the Committee has set up a My Sign Up link for volunteers to sign up for depot days. The link will be listed in the VIP and made available on the Township's website. The committee is still seeking an end market for Styrofoam that is closer than the present company in Bristol, P.A. They are also researching information on recycling large plastics.
- d. **Farmland/Open Space Preservation –** T. Robbi reported that a closing is scheduled for this Friday for a farm on Wertsville Road. This property is adjacent to existing preserved land.
- e. **Site Review Committee –** T. Robbi reported that he did visit the site of Peacocks. He did not file a formal report as the Commission does not have jurisdiction over State Open Waters.
- f. **Public Outreach/4H Fair –** D. Kellogg reported that things went very well at the 4H Fair. She did however, lose a few bean bags. She feels that for next year the questions need to be upgraded. She will reach out to Ms. Ernst to have the Environmental Club work on this. E. Johanson stated that some of the questions were not age appropriate. J. Frederick stated that he had to modify a question to suit a child. He suggested that the questions be categorized next year according to their difficulty. D. Kellogg would like to hear any suggestions for next year. She also suggested that M. Petrus do an SOP for future events. D. Kellogg also recommended that the Commission purchase some table cloths for next year as it is required to have the legs of the tables covered. M. Prendamano suggested that the school children create canvas table cloths for the Fair. She will explore that option with the Art Department at the school.
- g. **Conservation Easements –** J. Bradstreet reported that he has the master discs of all of the recorded easements. These discs include all types of easements including but not limited to pipeline easements and utility easements. He suggested that each member take a disc and sort through the information to segregate what is applicable to this Commission. The discs include copies of the associated deeds as well. D. Schleifer and E. Johanson will each take a disc.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. E. Johanson asked Commission members if they would like to go forward with the public movie showing of "The Sourlands" by Jared Flesher. E. Johanson felt that there is a need for a community event. T. Robbi suggested that the Commission reach out to Farmland and Open Space and the Recreation Committee to share the licensing

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expense of \$150. He also suggested purchasing a copy to lend out. The Commission discussed the school as a possible venue for the event.

- b. NJ Green Communities Grant – D. Kellogg reported that this grant is for a Community Forestry Management Plan. It is a \$3000 grant that has to be matched in kind. She suggested that the Commission reach out to the Hunterdon Land Trust to organize several of the local towns in an effort to increase the amount of money. T. Robbi also recommended consulting the Sourland Conservancy as they oversee most of the forest. The grant can be filed any time in 2014. D. Kellogg will reach out to the Hunterdon Land Trust with this issue to find out if they would be interested in perhaps being an umbrella organization. T. Robbi recommended that we revisit this grant next year. D. Schleifer suggested that this would be effective if there was a small forest unit to focus on where perhaps this amount of money would be sufficient. E. Johanson thought perhaps the money could be utilized for street trees in Ringoes Village for a traffic calming effect. D. Kellogg was questioning the loose definition of a “Community Forestry Management Plan”. She also noted that there has to be a Township Committee Resolution in order to apply. The grant appears to be available every year. D. Schleifer recommended looking into this next year. T. Robbi suggested that the Commission look at the planning studies done by the Sourland Planning Council. D. Kellogg noted that the grant is a reimbursement grant and that the in kind service rate is \$21.79/hour.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Blaire Langston, a Watershed Specialist of North Jersey Resource Conservation and Development was present from the public. She is currently working on a project in the Neshanic Watershed. She is focusing on having residents sign up for free residential rain gardens. Her organization has received a grant for 16 of these gardens. Ms. Langston requested that we post a flyer in our municipal office. There are nine gardens still available. She is also working getting a rain garden at the school. These gardens are engineered by Rutgers. Her organization also has funding for farmers to do cover crops. NRSC is providing 95% of the funding for a cover crop. T. Robbi advised Ms. Langston to contact the Ag Advisory Committee with this information. M. Prendamano will share this information with T. Stahl to possibly post on the Township website. J. Bradstreet will put this information in the October issue of the VIP. T. Robbi mentioned that the Commission made a small rain garden at Clawson Park. T. Robbi made a motion to close to the public. D. Kellogg seconded the motion. All members were in favor of closing to the public.

CORRESPONDENCE: All correspondence was listed on the 8/25/14 agenda.

MINUTES
East Amwell Township Environmental Commission
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OPEN TO COMMISSION MEMBERS: D. Schleifer stated that he was surprised that the Commission meets in July and August. He wondered if the Commission has considered forgoing summer meetings or perhaps combine the July and August meeting. D. Kellogg noted that since the 4H Fair occurs in August, the July meeting is important. T. Robbi suggested that when the Commission forms their schedule in January that they keep this in mind.

J. Frederick asked whether or not the well testing was still being conducted. D. Kellogg informed him that it will be done again next year.

ADJOURN: 8:37 PM Motion for adjournment was received from **D. Kellogg** 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