

## MINUTES

**East Amwell Township Environmental Commission  
Reorganization & Business Meeting  
February 23, 2015  
7:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The February 23, 2015 Reorganization & Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order by M. Prendamano at 7:34 PM. In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, M. Prendamano announced that this is the Reorganization Meeting and Business Meeting of the Environmental Commission, as published in the Hunterdon County Democrat on December 18, 2014. 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:** T. Robbi, E. Johanson, J. Frederick, D. Schleifer, Blaine Hummel  
M.Prendamano (secretary)

**ABSENT:** D. Sageser, D. Kellogg, J. Angelone, J. Bradstreet

**NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIRPERSON:** M. Prendamano opened the nominations for the position of Chairperson. E. Johanson nominated D. Schleifer for the position of Chairperson. This motion was seconded by T. Robbi. No other nominations were received. Vote was unanimously in favor. D. Schleifer was elected as Chairperson for 2015.

**NOMINATIONS FOR VICE-CHAIRPERSON:** M. Prendamano opened the nominations for Vice-Chairperson. T. Robbi nominated D. Kellogg for Vice-Chairperson. E. Johanson seconded the nomination. No other nominations were received. Vote was unanimously in favor. D. Kellogg was elected as Vice-Chairperson.

**READING AND ADOPTION OF 2015 RESOLUTION:**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Environmental Commission of the Township of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that during 2015, the Environmental Commission will hold regularly scheduled meetings on the fourth Monday of each month. THE DECEMBER MEETING WILL NOT BE HELD.

The MAY meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2015, because of the Memorial Day holiday on May 25.

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.

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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.

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

E. Johanson suggested that the August meeting not be held due to the low attendance. T. Robbi suggested cancelling the meeting and if we decide to meet we can advertise that we are meeting. T. Robbi made a motion to amend the Resolution to read that the Environmental Commission will not meet in August 2015. J. Frederick seconded the motion. All members voted unanimously to amend the Resolution.

J. Frederick suggested that the Resolution read “public meeting room” rather than “main reading room” in the event that the main meeting room is not available. T. Robbi made a motion to amend the Resolution to address the meeting room. J. Frederick seconded the motion. All members were in favor of amending the Resolution with regard to the meeting room.

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

- a. Site Review – J. Angelone, J. Frederick, T. Robbi, J. Bradstreet (alternate)
- b. Public Outreach/4-H Fair – D. Kellogg, E. Johanson, M. Prendamano, J. Angelone (alternate)
- c. Conservation Easements – J. Bradstreet, J. Frederick, D. Schleifer, T. Robbi (alternate)
- d. Liaison to FOSPC – E. Johanson made a motion appointing T. Robbi as liaison to FOSPC. J. Frederick seconded the motion. All members were in favor of appointing T. Robbi as liaison to FOSPC

**PRESENTATION OF MINUTES:** November 24, 2014 – Business Meeting

T. Robbi noted that his name was not listed as either present or absent. M. Prendamano will add T. Robbi to the roll call. D. Schleifer suggested a change adding the word

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'removal' to the fourth paragraph after the word 'trash'. The amended minutes of the November 24, 2014 business meeting were motioned for approval by E. Johanson with a second from J. Frederick. There were two abstentions from T. Robbi and B. Hummel.

### **PRESENTATION OF BILLS:**

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

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

### **LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS:**

1. Greenfest – T. Robbi noted that it will be on the front of the Spring Newsletter. He reported that this year it will be held at the school on May 9<sup>th</sup>. It is a joint endeavor of FOSPC and our Commission. He asked what the Commission would like to emphasize at their table. Last year the focus was on Open Space. E. Johanson suggested featuring information on creating Monarch Butterfly Way Stations. M. Prendamano asked if there were any planned hikes to announce at Greenfest. D. Schleifer inquired if the Commission has ever done anything in conjunction with the Sourland Conservancy. T. Robbi noted that they will have their own table at Greenfest. One of their new programs is a Stewardship Program. B. Hummel will find out about planning a bird hike. T. Robbi recommended the Cider Mill Preserve. M. Prendamano added that it would be nice to inform residents about alternatives to herbicides. M. Prendamano will attend Greenfest. T. Robbi, J. Frederick and E. Johanson will also attend.

T. Robbi introduced a discussion about the ANJEC mini grant. The grant is for \$1,500. He suggested using the money to create a small parking lot at the Cider Mill Preserve. D. Schleifer inquired as to how involved the grant writing process is for this particular grant. T. Robbi stated that it is not too involved but he thinks we would have to get the Township Committee's approval. He added that there are some matching requirements with regard to volunteer hours and possible some money from the Open Space Trust Fund. E. Johanson proposed the construction of a platform for visitors to stand on and look out over the fields. T. Robbi feels that it would be best to begin with a parking lot. A platform may be an item to revisit after the lot is in place. E. Johanson also mentioned that a Monarch Way Station would be a nice addition to Clawson Park. T. Robbi stated that Clawson Park is going to be redesigned. The retention basins may be a better environment for Milkweed once this is complete. The existing rain garden is too wet. M. Prendamano recommended that someone contact the Neshanic Watershed to see if the rain garden grant would apply to Clawson Park.

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T. Robbi noted that we would have to get approval from NJ Fish and Wildlife. B. Hummel inquired whether or not we would lose the grant if the State said no. T. Robbi replied that it will more than likely be approved. He noted that the deadline is April 1, 2015. T. Robbi will see that it is on the agenda for the Township Committee's March meeting. E. Johanson made a motion to support the grant application by T. Robbi. J. Frederick seconded the motion. All members were in favor of the motion.

#### REPORTS:

a. Planning Board – D. Sageser was not present but did send a report to M. Prendamano. M. Prendamano read the following as per email from D. Sageser, “The main activities of the Planning Board have been focused on the Ringoes Village Study and how to implement. We have met with the County and they appear supportive of our interest in traffic calming. In the coming year we will consider any improvements with regard to zoning in the village to make it more appealing for the residents and commercial store owners. On the Township Committee we’ve introduced the Unsafe/Unfit Building Ordinance that will enable us to take a more active role in building code enforcement. Also, an ordinance to purchase two permanent radar speed limit signs for the village.”

b. Township Committee –See above.

c. Recycling Committee – E. Johanson reported that Styrofoam collection is ongoing. There was a member of the public present who posed a question. He was wondering if any of the disposal companies are willing to pick up trash only. Most companies charge for recycling and trash collection. A survey was conducted at the recycling depot asking residents why they use the depot and if they pay separate for trash and/or recycling. The Commission opened discussion to the public to hear from Mayor Wang-Iverson. He informed Commission members that the Township Committee is inviting all board chairs to attend Township Committee meetings to give a report or update. This is in an effort to get more direct interaction between the Township Committee and other Committees. T. Robbi suggested that the Environmental Commission's 2015 Goals be presented. D. Schleifer will make an effort to attend the meeting. He mentioned that the Recycling Committee volunteered to do a welcome package for new homeowners. R. O'Reilly will be heading this effort and will be reaching out to all committees for input.

d. Farmland/Open Space Preservation – T. Robbi informed the Commission that Greenfest is currently the focus of FOSPC. They are also conducting a Farm Forum tomorrow night which is aimed at landowners that are potential preservers of farmland. There will be a representative from D&R that will explain some of the financial benefits of preservation. All are welcome to attend.

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e. Site Review Committee – Nothing to report.

f. Public Outreach – Nothing to report.

g. Conservation Easements – Nothing to report.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

a. Penn East Pipeline: E. Johanson attended a workshop at the watershed. She noted that many of the jobs that the company is claiming to provide are mostly outsourced from other states. T. Robbi noted that the company is exercising eminent domain to traverse private property.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

a. Roadside Clean Up – B. Hummel reported that this is the 28<sup>th</sup> annual Roadside Clean Up which is the longest running continuous Roadside Clean Up in the State. He is seeking support from the Environmental Commission. He had his first volunteer sign up. Last year there was just less than 10 cubic yards collected. Last year's stream clean up did not turn up much of anything. He would like a rider to the insurance policy to cover the volunteers. He will make a report of collection data and share with the Commission. He will advertise in the VIP. He would also like to request that the Roadside Clean Up be added to the Environmental Commission's goals. T. Robbi made a motion to approve the Roadside Clean Up for Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015. E. Johanson seconded the motion. All members were in favor of supporting Roadside Clean Up. B. Hummel added that he went to the Raritan Headwaters Association and declined to participate in the stream clean up this year. The pickers and the vests will be available to volunteers the week prior to the event. He also suggested that the Commission may want to think about purchasing some new trash pickers next year. B. Hummel brought a box of files with regard to impact assessments for the Commission to file.

b. 2015 Goals – Roadside Clean Up will be added to the ongoing goals. E. Johanson suggested adding that we pursue joint efforts with the school. T. Robbi noted that the school children will be providing artwork to be displayed at Greenfest. Other minor amendments were discussed. The agreed changes to the Goals were finalized. T. Robbi made a motion that the 2015 Goals be adopted with the agreed upon changes. D. Schleifer seconded the motion. All members voted unanimously in favor of adopting the 2015 Goals.

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c. Spring Newsletter – M. Prendamano presented the newsletter. It is almost complete. E. Johanson submitted an article for the Environmental Commission. E. Johanson suggested adding something about septic system maintenance and care.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** All correspondence was listed on the 2/23/15 agenda.

**LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS:**

None

**OPEN TO COMMISSION MEMBERS:**

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

**ADJOURN: 9:31 PM.** Motion for adjournment was received from T. Robbi and J. Frederick 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		