

MINUTES

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

CALL TO ORDER: The March 23, 2015 Reorganization & Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:36 P.M. In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, this is a regular Business Meeting of the East Amwell Environmental Commission, as published in the Hunterdon County Democrat on March 5, 2015. 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. Bradstreet, D. Kellogg, D. Sageser
M.Prendamano (secretary)

ABSENT: B. Hummel, J. Frederick, J. Angelone, D. Schleifer

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES: February 23, 2015

T. Robbi made a motion to approve the February 23rd meeting minutes. E. Johanson seconded the motion. Three abstentions from J. Bradstreet, D. Kellogg and D. Sageser

PRESENTATION OF BILLS: None

LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS: None

REPORTS:

a. Planning Board – D. Sageser reported that the March meeting was cancelled. At the last meeting they addressed the Ringoes report to act on some of the recommendations of the Village Study. The radar speed signs are in place. They had a meeting with the County engineering department to discuss traffic calming efforts. They are considering petitioning the state to vacate Route 179 to 202 to its end in the Village. The State is encouraging this move. The speed limit could then be lowered and stop signs put in place. Another option is to have the State make it a 'Complete Street'. This is a Federal program that would make a street that accommodates bicycles and pedestrians. Since the road is so wide it could accommodate a bike way and/or parking. Another issue that had come up is the COAH activity. The Township will have to resubmit a plan with regard to COAH.

b. Township Committee –Dart Sageser reported that the Township Committee has introduced an unfit building ordinance which is up for adoption at the next meeting. It has the full support of the Committee. The goal is to ensure the enforcement of the State Building Code. It gives the Township the ability to assist in an instance where the property owner fails to comply with the direction of the Building Department. It gives

MINUTES

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

the Township the right to board up, fence or demolish a building for non compliance. A tax lien can also be placed on the property.

The windows have been ordered for the Clawson House. The renovation should begin soon. The budget that has been introduced does not raise taxes. The Committee decided to forgo their salaries in an effort to give a raise to the DPW employees. As per the County engineer, the bridge on Wertsville Road is slightly ahead of schedule.

c. Recycling Committee – M. Prendamano reported that the Committee is continuing the Styrofoam collection and have been trying to drum up volunteers for the monthly depot. April 18th is Roadside Clean Up and April 25th is the Township Spring Clean Up day. D. Sageser noted that the designs from the school children made a nice addition to the Spring Newsletter.

d. Farmland/Open Space Preservation – T. Robbi informed the Commission that FOSPC did not meet but G. Robbi from FOSPC is present and would like to speak. The Commission opened to the public. G. Robbi noted that a few people that had attended the forum expressed an interest in preserving their land. FOSPC has learned that John Higgins, who owns a few hundred acres, is working with New Jersey Conservation Foundation. He preserved a significant amount of acreage in Hillsborough as well. He is interested in preserving his land in East Amwell. The funding would come from the State, County and the Township. FOSPC has alerted the State and the County. The State is cooperative at putting the money together from different pots. It is a long process.

There are some other potential properties. They did close on three parcels on Ridge Road. They are wooded lots that totaled about 40 acres. There is another piece on Rileyville Road that abuts the Sourland Preserve. It is 26 acres that is part of an estate. One other piece is off of South Hill Road that involves a 10 acre lot with a tower on it. It is also in an estate situation. D&R Greenway has been a wonderful partner.

e. Site Review Committee – Nothing to report.

f. Public Outreach – Nothing to report.

g. Conservation Easements – J. Bradstreet expressed that he can no longer head this sub-committee. He would like to remain an active member but he feels he cannot give it the attention it needs. D. Kellogg suggested re-organizing this committee next month.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

MINUTES

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

a. Penn East Pipeline: E. Johanson attended the scoping meeting. There were about 500 people in attendance. T. Robbi sent a written comment and has not gotten any feedback. He signed his letter as a member of this Committee. He noted that the route has been moved further west. It goes through the Lambertville Reservoir property. It would go across the Rockhopper Trail. D. Sageser met with JCP & L and they were discussing the substation in West Amwell. He asked about shared right of ways. The JCP & L representative did say that their right of ways are very individual from owner to owner.

b. Greenfest – G. Robbi stated that they have about 18 organizations that will be participating besides the five volunteer groups of the Township. Some participants include The Ringoes Grange will be there emphasizing health issues as they relate to preservation and conservation. The Historical Society is preparing a display. Roadside Clean Up, VIP, South County Soccer, The Raritan Headwaters Association, The Sourland Conservancy, Stoneybrook Millstone Watershed, The Northwest New Jersey Bee Keepers with a demonstration hive. The Girl Scouts, Duke Farms and D&R Greenway will be represented. It will be helpful if anyone has any visual displays. The East Amwell School's Environmental Club will not be present as Ms. Ernst has her brother's wedding. Hunterdon Land Trust is interested in having someone here with information about the Dvoor Farm Market.

G. Robbi noted from last month's minutes that the Environmental Commission may sponsor some hikes. E. Johanson stated that she will reach out to Juanita to host a birding hike. G. Robbi suggested having a tour of Clawson Park. Clawson Park is a popular walking area. T. Robbi will conduct a walk through Omick Woods. T. Robbi suggested Juanita take residents to Cider Mill. D. Kellogg suggested reaching out to Tom Thorson to lead a hike. She noted that he is very knowledgeable about native plants, critters and conservation issues. E. Johanson recommended inviting the Invasive Strike Team. G. Robbi mentioned that the master gardeners will be at Greenfest as well.

E. Johanson ordered brochures for Monarch Way Stations. She would like to see what Ms. Ernst has in the way of visuals. G. Robbi recalled M. Prendamano's suggestion to include information on alternatives to herbicides. T. Robbi believes there may be information in the basement. D. Kellogg suggested contacting an organic farm. She also offered to reach out to the New Jersey Groundwater Association to see if they have any interest in providing information.

G. Robbi noted that a donation letter was sent to ShopRite for refreshments. She is looking for a volunteer to pick up the food stuff. D. Kellogg will check with S. Monus of the AVLBL as she picks up supplies each Saturday for the baseball league.

MINUTES

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

FOSPC will also have information from ANJEC with regard to Open Space as a good investment. T. Robbi offered to produce a slide show for Greenfest at the Environmental Commission's table. He needs a laptop. J. Frederick lent the Commission his laptop in the past so T. Robbi will ask him if they can use it again. M. Prendamano inquired as to whether or not the school was informed about the need for tables. G. Robbi will schedule a meeting with Ed Stoloski.

c. 2015 Goals –The proposed 2015 goals were presented. They were tentatively approved at the last informal meeting. T. Robbi made a motion to approve the 2015 Goals. D. Sageser seconded the motion. All members voted unanimously in favor of approving the 2015 Goals.

NEW BUSINESS: None

CORRESPONDENCE: All correspondence was listed on the 3/23/15 agenda.

LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS: None

OPEN TO COMMISSION MEMBERS:

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: No further comments received.

ADJOURN: 8:39 PM. Motion for adjournment was received from T. Robbi and J. Bradstreet 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		