

MINUTES

East Amwell Township Environmental Commission Regular Business Meeting May 27, 2015 7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: The May 27, 2015 Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:41 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, J. Bradstreet, D. Schleifer, D. Kellogg, J. Angelone
M.Prendamano (secretary)

ABSENT: E. Johanson, B. Hummel, D. Sageser, J. Frederick

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES: April 27, 2015

Minutes were presented for approval. T. Robbi made a motion to approve the amended minutes of April 27th. J. Bradstreet seconded the motion. All members were in favor of approving the minutes with two abstentions from D. Kellogg and J. Angelone.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS: None

LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS: None

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None present

REPORTS:

a. Planning Board – D. Sageser was not present.

b. Township Committee –Dart Sageser was not present.

c. Recycling Committee – Inadvertently skipped.

d. Farmland/Open Space Preservation – T. Robbi reported that the 20 acres that were thought to be falling through is not totally lost. There may be a request for a waiver for the driveway. There is a 10 acre woodlot on South Hill Road that will close in the next couple of months. A few farm families that attended the forum are still exploring options for preservation. The 300 acre Higgins piece is still in progress. He seems to be interested in preserving a lot of farmland from Wertsville Road up to the woods.

e. Site Review Committee – No activity.

MINUTES

East Amwell Township Environmental Commission Regular Business Meeting May 27, 2015 7:30 p.m.

f. Public Outreach – D. Kellogg stated that we need to begin gearing up for the 4H Fair. She would like to reach out to neighboring townships for help staffing the tables. She believes she has copies of the letters from last year. The fair will be held August 19th - 23rd. M. Prendamano will look out for the application to participate. D. Kellogg would like suggestions for new literature to hand out. As always, she will provide information on Storm Water management. T. Robbi suggested that we include the leftover butterfly materials from Greenfest. D. Kellogg would like to see if Rutgers and/or Sweet Valley would donate leftover seeds to give to the children as ‘mystery seeds’ rather than trinkets from Oriental Trading. She will coordinate with M. Petrus. She will also reach out to the NJ Groundwater Association to get some information for the table. J. Angelone suggested providing information on the proposed Penn East Pipeline. D. Kellogg is concerned that it may be controversial to take a particular stance. J. Angelone stated that the Township prepared a Resolution in Opposition. D. Kellogg will reread the Resolution and speak to D. Sageser to see if the Township Committee feels strongly one way or the other. T. Robbi suggested displaying a map of the current proposed course of the pipeline just as a source of information for residents as the course changes. He added that we could point out the sensitive environmental areas in its path.

D. Schleifer asked members if they are interested in participating in Hunterdon County Community Day. M. Prendamano believes that E. Johanson will be attending.

T. Robbi mentioned that Greenfest was a nice event. He would like the Environmental Commission’s table to be in a different location next year. He thanked M. Prendamano for helping out. Next year the timing will be earlier as there were conflicts with baseball and soccer. D. Schleifer recommended having it in April. D. Kellogg thought it is a good idea to have Greenfest before the Roadside Clean Up so that B. Hummel has an opportunity to recruit volunteers. T. Robbi will also take the date of Easter into consideration. He will recommend April 9th as a potential date.

The Commission skipped back to the Recycling Committee report.

M. Prendamano reported that the Youth Members made a new board and sculpture for Greenfest. They Styrofoam collection is ongoing. The Committee is having a difficult time recruiting volunteers for the monthly depots. She asks that anyone interested in volunteering please let her know.

g. Conservation Easements – J. Bradstreet made some modifications to the letter that will be used for residents. He amended the second paragraph to read ‘the Township is obligated to inspect and photograph’. D. Schleifer and J. Frederick are listed on the bottom as contacts. J. Frederick will be taking the lead on the letters so that he will look

MINUTES

East Amwell Township Environmental Commission Regular Business Meeting May 27, 2015 7:30 p.m.

through the extensive list, review the deeds and then decide on the next letters to go out. He noted that each page is a separate file on the disc. It is rather cumbersome to try and find the language that explains the easement. D. Kellogg noted that that can be fixed to stitch everything together. J. Bradstreet stated that twenty-four letters went out. Some of the properties listed as 'farm terraces' are on the low priority list. Wetlands buffers are higher priority. D. Schleifer spoke to an attorney at the Green Acres program and asked what are rights are with regard to making periodic inspections. He was advised that if it specifies monitoring in the easement then the wording should be cited as your basis for inspection. If there is no wording specific to inspection or monitoring, the attorney will get back to him with some wording for monitoring and inspecting. It will help when encountering resistance to be able to justify our authority to inspect the easement.

D. Kellogg noted that tax assessments are based on the easements being maintained and that if the easement is not maintained it could affect the tax assessment. T. Robbi added that people tend to cut the easement as part of their lawn. The easements are not typically marked and the landscape companies will cut them with the lawn. He has seen some lined with rocks too. It is not easy for some people to maintain them as a lot of them are stream buffers that conflict with lawn. D. Schleifer stated that there should be a consequence as by failing to maintain an easement they are violating the interest of the municipality. He also noted that the Commission should make conservation easements the priority over drainage easements. J. Angelone asked how we could establish a baseline. T. Robbi stated that there are aerial photographs that go back years. D. Kellogg added that they should be dealt with on a case by case basis. J. Angelone feels that many people do not even realize they have an easement and that education is needed. D. Schleifer reported that he has access to aerial photographs and can prepare some overviews of the parcels to be looked at in an effort to see some history.

D. Schleifer feels that we should give people a chance to comply but at that point the Commission needs to discuss how the violation will be dealt with.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Penn East Pipeline: E. Johanson was absent.

NEW BUSINESS:

CORRESPONDENCE: All correspondence was listed on the 5/27/15 agenda. M. Prendamano presented a memo from CFO M. Pasqua regarding purchasing procedures.

MINUTES

**East Amwell Township Environmental Commission
Regular Business Meeting
May 27, 2015
7:30 p.m.**

D. Schleifer will review and sign. B. Hummel's Roadside Clean Up report. D. Kellogg added that the Recreation committee is hosting a free movie this Friday, "The Penguins of Madagascar" at the Kirkpatrick Church in Ringoes.

LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS: None

OPEN TO COMMISSION MEMBERS: T. Robbi reported that the Cider Mill grant was turned down but he believes if he resubmits it next year there is a chance it will be approved. M. Prendamano reported that any time spent discussing the Clawson Park project should be reported to her as she is keeping a log. T. Robbi inquired as to whether or not Steve Sousa will be rescheduling his walk through Clawson Park. No one was certain. T. Robbi suggested that a member of the Environmental Commission be on the Clawson Park Committee. M. Prendamano will ask T. Stahl about that possibility.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: No public present.

ADJOURN: 8:37 PM. Motion for adjournment was received from J. Angelone 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		