

**MINUTES
EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REORGANIZATION MEETING
January 25, 2016
7:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER: The January 25, 2016 Reorganization Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:35 P.M. In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, this is a Reorganization Meeting of the East Amwell Environmental Commission, as published in the Hunterdon County Democrat on December 17, 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, D. Schleifer, J. Angelone, F. Lippincott, T. Rue, D. Kellogg, B. Hummel, M. Prendamano (secretary)

ABSENT: D. Sageser, J. Frederick

NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIRPERSON: M. Prendamano opened nominations for Chairperson of the Environmental Commission. T. Robbi nominated D. Schleifer. D. Kellogg seconded the nomination. Hearing no other nominations for Chairperson, all members were in favor of voting D. Schleifer for Chairperson of the Commission.

M. Prendamano opened nominations for Vice-Chairperson. D. Schleifer nominated D. Kellogg for Vice Chairperson. T. Robbi seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations for Vice Chairperson, all members were in favor of voting D. Kellogg for Vice Chairperson of the Environmental Commission.

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
RESOLUTION 01-16**

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Environmental Commission of the Township of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that during 2016, The Environmental Commission will hold regularly scheduled meetings on the fourth Monday of each month.

THERE WILL BE NO OFFICIAL MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE IN THE MONTHS OF AUGUST AND DECEMBER 2016.

All regular meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. prevailing time, in one of the Public Meeting Rooms of the East Amwell Township Municipal Building, 1070 Route 202/31, Ringoes, New Jersey.

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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LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICE: _____, 2016
By the Order of the Environmental Commission.

Maria Prendamano, Secretary

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APPOINT SUBCOMMITTEES: All members voted unanimously for the following appointments:

- a. Site Review Committee – T. Robbi, J. Angelone, J. Frederick and F. Lippincott (alternate)
- b. Public Outreach/4H Fair – D. Kellogg & T. Rue
- c. Conservation Easements – D. Schleifer, J. Frederick, F. Lippincott and T. Rue (alternate)

D. Schleifer initiated a discussion about liaison to FOSPC. He stated that he and D. Kellogg could split the meetings between them with J. Angelone as an alternate. T. Robbi reported that FOSPC will only meet when they have business. There may only be six or so meetings per year. T. Robbi nominated D. Kellogg as the liaison. J. Angelone seconded the motion. All members were in favor of nominating D. Kellogg as liaison to FOSPC.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES: November 19, 2015

Minutes were presented for approval. T. Robbi made a motion to approve the minutes from November 19, 2016. J. Angelone seconded the motion. All members were in favor of approving the minutes with two abstentions from D. Kellogg and T. Rue.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS: ANJEC dues in the amount of \$410 for nine members. T. Robbi made a motion to approve the invoice and D. Schleifer seconded the motion. All members were in favor of approval of the invoice for \$410.

LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS: None

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None present.

REPORTS:

- a. Planning Board – D. Sageser was not present to report.
- b. Township Committee- D. Sageser D. Sageser was not present to report.
- c. Recycling Committee – T. Rue reported that the Recycling Committee is working on the Spring Newsletter and would like a full page submission from the Environmental Commission. J. Angelone suggested the pipeline as an issue. D. Kellogg thought perhaps reaching out to Raritan Headwaters for information regarding the results

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from the recent well testing might be of interest. M. Prendamano suggested doing an article on conservation easements as a means of educating the public. D. Schleifer will prepare something. T. Robbi will try to get information about the Plant Swap.

d. FOSPC – T. Robbi reported that the Higgins project proposal has gone to the Open Space committee at the County and they are going to be responsible for quite a bit of the funding. There are many sources of funding for this project. The County commitment will become solidified once the Freeholders approve it.

e. Site Review – No activity.

f. Public Outreach/4H Fair – D. Kellogg reported that she received a phone call from Glorianne Robbi looking for suggestions for Greenfest. She is wondering what the Commission's point of view is with regard to venue or any other ways to make Greenfest more popular with the public. D. Schleifer thinks that having it in April will be better as it will not conflict with sports schedules. D. Kellogg stated that many of the entities that were represented last year will be back again this year. She asked if anyone knows of any other groups that might be interested in attending. M. Prendamano thought perhaps the local alpaca farm would do a demonstration drawing some children to the event. She also suggested a food truck. She also thought that the State Police would be a good draw. T. Robbi asked about 4H groups. M. Prendamano will reach out to groups that she knows of. D. Schleifer suggested having the local winery come to the event. J. Angelone suggested having the event at the winery. D. Kellogg thought Oh Wow Cow would be a nice addition. She added that it would be nice to have a local musician performing at the event.

g. Conservation Easements – J. Frederick is absent. D. Schleifer reported that they did visit the DeGoia property and the Zoning Board did issue final approvals. He stated that he is going to work with J. Frederick and F. Lippincott to finalize protocols for inspections and non-compliance. He is hoping to get guidance from D. Sageser as well.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Penn East Pipeline: D. Kellogg is under the impression that this is no longer an imminent issue as the prices of gas have dropped significantly. T. Robbi stated that his wife is part of a group that will continue to monitor the situation. B. Hummel added that there is a better overseas market for compressed natural gas and a consortium of interested parties including the Audubon society and D&R Greenway Land Trust is planning a walk along the proposed pipeline ROW on Baldpate Mountain in early April. D. Schleifer added that he read an article stating that this gas is intended for overseas markets. This item will be removed from the agenda and discussed as activity occurs.

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- b. Rambling Pines MOA – T. Robbi has heard that there is activity on this issue within the D.E.P. The memorandum is with the Attorney General’s Office right now. D. Schleifer asked if we have a fallback position in case we cannot get any traction on this agreement. T. Robbi stated that we would be responsible for stewardship on the trail but does not think we do.
- c. D. Schleifer took an opportunity to ask members if they want to resubmit the application for a parking area at the Cider Mill Preserve. The grant is from ANJEC. All members agreed to resubmit the application for the grant. T. Robbi added that the Amwell Valley Hounds maintain the trails and would continue to do so. D. Schleifer made a motion to resubmit the proposal. T. Robbi seconded the motion. All members agreed to resubmit the application to ANJEC.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Roadside Clean-up Day – B. Hummel asked for the support of the Environmental Commissions support in the 29th annual Roadside Clean-up which will be held on April 16th. Last year was an underwhelming turn out. They were able to clean 70% of the Township roads and all of the County roads. They collected 3 cubic yards of general trash and 1 cubic yard of glass and plastic. Collectively they have collected 146 cubic yards of general trash and 70 cubic yards of recyclables and over 700 tires over the past 28 years. Shoprite will be donating food. He is asking for an insurance rider from the Township, two (3) cubic yard dumpsters. He would like the recyclables removed as soon as possible so that they are not contaminated with trash. He also would like to have access to the municipal building and a first aid kit. D. Kellogg added that she is not sure the port-a-potty will be in place this year. D. Schleifer made a motion to support B. Hummel and the Roadside Clean-up day. J. Angelone seconded the motion and all members were in favor of supporting the Roadside Clean-up day.
- b. 2016 Goals of the Environmental Commission– D. Schleifer would like to add setting up Monarch stations on public lands. He thought Cider Mill Preserve would be a good spot. M. Prendamano added that M. Petrus mentioned that this could happen at Clawson Park. T. Robbi stated that there are plans to redo the existing rain garden. D. Schleifer thought perhaps he could request a monarch way station in Clawson Park. M. Prendamano suggested including M. Petrus in his correspondence. J. Angelone suggested an area between the soccer fields and the baseball fields. D. Kellogg added that Ms. Ernst would probably love to designate an area at the school. She will send D. Schleifer her contact information. M. Prendamano mentioned that perhaps a grant from the Neshanic Watershed could help to fund a rain garden that could house Milkweed. D. Kellogg offered to speak to the people at the Colonial Sportsman Club to see if they would designate an area. F. Lippincott also

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offered to speak to her contacts to NJ Audubon to see if they have an interest or suggestions.

- c. Spring Newsletter– Discussed previously in the meeting.
- d. Ringoes Storm Water Management – D. Schleifer thought we should discuss this next month.

CORRESPONDENCE: Various agendas/minutes from boards and committees. Letter from Raritan Headwaters; Notice from PSE&G permit; Public Notice for construction to Dunkard Church Road Bridge; Wetlands interpretation for property on Back Brook Road; Wetlands interpretation for property on 202 and Dutch Lane; East Amwell Township Resolution #150-15 in support of clean water supplies; Letter from ANJEC;

OPEN TO COMMISSION MEMBERS: J. Angelone found out that PSE&G bought 423 acres in Hillsborough between Hamilton and Route 514. There is a large wooded area that they are looking to put in a natural gas fired plant because it is the intersection of four pipelines. It is in the planning stages at this point.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None present.

ADJOURN: 8:54 PM. Motion for adjournment was received from J. Angelone and D. Kellogg 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		