

MINUTES

East Amwell Township Environmental Commission Business Meeting July 27, 2009 7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: The July 27, 2009 Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairperson, M. Petrus at 7:35 PM.

In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, M. Petrus announced that this is the Regular Business Meeting of the Environmental Commission, as published in the Hunterdon County Democrat on February 19, 2009. 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: M. Petrus, T. Robbi, D. Sageser, D. Kellogg, J. Angelone, S. Parsons, J. Corboy (Secretary), M. K. Haantz

ABSENT: A. Celebre, F. Clair, L. Lewis, T. Martin, B. Hummel, D. Holley

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES: June 22, 2009 – Business Meeting

The minutes of the June 22, 2009 business meeting were motioned for approval by T. Robbi, with a second from S. Parsons, and were approved with no changes/deletions. There was one abstention.

LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA:

1. Letter from A. S. Clerico/Banisch Associates, Inc., 7/13/09, re: Sustainable Jersey
2. Page from Township Committee Minutes of 7/16/09

PRESENTATION OF BILLS: Banisch Associates, Inc. - \$742.50

Motion was made by S. Parsons to approve payment of this bill. Second was received from T. Robbi and the vote was unanimously in favor.

REPORTS:

- a. Planning Board – D. Sageser stated that the Planning Board discussed the new Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance and the new flood maps that can be obtained on the FEMA site. These maps are used to determine flood prone areas and set insurance rates. The new digital maps provide more up to date and accurate information.

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- b. Township Committee – T. Martin was absent this evening. Thus, no report was received.
- c. Recycling Committee – M. Petrus informed members that the Recycling Committee continued their discussion of recycling at the 4-H Fair. He stated that he contacted Raritan Valley Waste Disposal concerning pick-up of the recyclables. Secretary informed members that the draft recycling ordinance has been approved by the Recycling Committee and will be forwarded to the Township Committee for their review and approval.
- d. Farmland/Open Space Preservation – T. Robbi stated that the final State mandated Farm and Open Space Plan has been re-submitted.
- e. Smart Growth Grant II – T. Robbi stated that East Amwell Township has signed up with the Smart Growth Plan Alliance. They are still waiting for other municipalities to sign up.
- d. Stormwater Committee – D. Kellogg stated that a meeting has been scheduled for September 2 to discuss the soil conservation berm that was reviewed at our last meeting and to discuss jurisdiction as to who will enforce the stormwater regulations. R. O’Neal has been invited to this meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Solar Energy Update – Nothing to report from this group..
- b. Website Update – L. Lewis was absent this evening. Thus, no report was given. T. Robbi informed members that the Township Committee has signed up for an outside agency to work on the website.
- c. Clawson Park – Update – T. Robbi stated that the Somerset-Hunterdon Master Gardeners have not yet formally approved their participation. He anticipates planting to start in September or October.
- d. Public Outreach – M. Petrus stated that the Township Committee has approved the resolution to allow youth members for the Environmental Commission. They still have to approve the actual applicants. Application has been sent for the 4-H Fair booth. Schedule should be ready shortly and volunteers are needed. He hopes that students will volunteer to man the booth in addition to the adult volunteers. T. Robbi suggested that an invasive plant recognition contest be held. J. Angelone stated that the New Jersey Audobon Society website has an excellent guide for invasive plants. M. Petrus and volunteers will meet next Tuesday to review their plans and materials for the booth.
- e. Conservation Easements – S. Parsons informed members that the Zoning Officer has met with T. Robbi, F. Clair and herself to discuss the first draft of a letter to be sent to property owners with conservation easements and the site review inspection sheet. A select area will be picked and owners will be sent a letter to inform them of this process. She wondered about mailing costs for these letters. There is some leftover money in the Township account from the Grant monies. J. Luhrs will be contacted to request permission to use those funds. A general information sheet will also be included with this mailing. Block 40 area has been selected as the first area to be reviewed. She also

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reported that a paragraph or two was submitted for inclusion in the July tax bill mailing and she also submitted an article for the VIP.

f. Natural Resource Inventory – B. Hummel was absent this evening. No report was received.

g.. Sustainable Development – Green by Design – D. Sageser stated that he will compose a draft letter inviting members from the different groups mentioned at the last meeting. He will forward it to the secretary. Resolution from the Township Committee might be expected at their August meeting. D. Sageser will check with T. Stahl.

APPLICATIONS FROM PLANNING BOARD & BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT FOR REVIEW: None received.

NEW BUSINESS: none received

CORRESPONDENCE: All correspondence was listed on the 7/27/09 agenda. Last minute additions were listed previously in these minutes and were distributed to all at the meeting.

OPEN TO COMMISSION MEMBERS: no comments received.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: T. Robbi motioned to open to the public and it was seconded by S. Parsons. S. Parsons invited prospective youth members to the 4-H Fair meeting next Tuesday night for their input. She suggested that they make up a list of subjects that might be of interest to the children who might attend. M. Petrus stated that all volunteers will receive free passes. Parking costs \$10. T. Robbi moved to close to the public and it was seconded by D. Kellogg.

T. Robbi informed members that he will be absent from the August meeting.

ADJOURN: 8:15 PM Motion for adjournment was received from T. Robbi and D. Kellogg seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Joyce S. Corboy, 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		