

## MINUTES

### **East Amwell Township Environmental Commission Business Meeting October 26, 2009 7:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The October 26, 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, D. Sageser, D. Kellogg, F. Clair, J. Angelone, S. Parsons, J. Corboy (Secretary), M. K. Hanntz

**ABSENT:** A. Celebre, T. Robbi, L. Lewis, T. Martin, B. Hummel, D. Holley, K. Haney

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Secretary announced that she will not be able to attend the November meeting. T. Stahl has agreed to take her place at the meeting.

**PRESENTATION OF MINUTES:** July 27, 2009 – Business Meeting

The minutes of the July 27, 2009 business meeting were motioned for approval by D. Kellogg, with a second from J. Angelone, and were approved with no changes/deletions. There was one abstention.

**LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA:** No last minute additions were presented.

**PRESENTATION OF BILLS:** No bills were presented this evening.

#### **REPORTS:**

a. Planning Board – D. Sageser stated that the Planning Board approved a resolution to allow the Fire Company to build a 3000 ft. pole barn to house the large vehicles. The Planning Board also completed the discussion and drafting of the Tree Harvesting ordinance. It will now go to the Township Committee for approval. If approved, residents in the mountain area must obtain a permit if they wish to take down more than

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five trees in a twelve month period.. Residents in the valley area do not have to obtain a permit if trees are diseased or damaged.

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 is continuing their educational efforts, i.e., articles in the VIP. They are also pursuing efforts to obtain a new youth member.

d. Farmland/Open Space Preservation – T. Robbi was absent this evening. However, he did e-mail a report to the secretary prior to tonight's meeting. He reported that the latest version of Farmland Plan is going to the State.

e. Smart Growth Grant II – No report received.

d. Stormwater Committee – D. Kellogg stated that the Stormwater Committee did meet to review the latest State guidelines checklist on how to fulfill our community relations requirements. Discussion followed on whether the checklist should be incorporated into the original ordinance or just attached to it. They decided to attach it.

**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. Secretary informed members that an outside vender is now managing the website. Members discussed and decided to remove this topic from the agenda. S. Parsons reminded members that L. Lewis had begun work on an environmental page for the website and suggested that this pursuit be continued.

c. Clawson Park – Update – T. Robbi was absent this evening. However, as mentioned previously, he forwarded his report to the secretary: "Clawson – it's finished. Rain garden planted on Oct. 2 by Hunterdon/Somerset Master Gardeners. It's located below the flag pole – temporarily surrounded by ugly orange fencing to keep dogs and deer out while plants get going. Detention basin planted same day by Dick Ginman, myself and some of the master gardeners. Those plants are in two bands flanking the marshy area with high grass."

d. Public Outreach – M. Petrus asked K. Haantz for a report from the school. She informed members that the younger students have recently worked on a project after school hours. She also reported that there are recycling containers throughout the school for recyclables. Raritan Valley Waste Disposal is their garbage and recycling hauler. Recently, a letter was sent to the school by the Recycling Committee asking for a response – not yet received. K. Haantz was asked to follow up with the school office.

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- e. Conservation Easements – S. Parsons informed members that the conservation easement letter to residents is still being reviewed by the Township legal advisors. Hopefully, it will go to the Township Committee soon for their approval.
- f. Natural Resource Inventory – B. Hummel was absent this evening. No report was received.
- g.. Sustainable Development – Green by Design – D. Sageser stated that we are officially registered with the State in the Sustainable Jersey Program. He now needs to compose the form letter to possible members to join the green team. He also plans to review the list of requirements for points to become certified. A hundred points are needed by the Township to become a certified Sustainable Jersey member. D. Sageser suggested that we change the name of this agenda item to “Sustainable Jersey”. Members agreed.

**APPLICATIONS FROM PLANNING BOARD & BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT FOR REVIEW:**

- 1. Block 25, Lot 3.03 (Stover) - Original application was first given to M. Petrus for possible site visit. Site review was done and the application is now in the hands of T. Robbi for the writing of the site visit report.**
- 2. Block 30, Lot 8.01 (Geis) - M. Petrus and T. Robbi will review and decide if a site visit is needed.**

**NEW BUSINESS: none received**

**CORRESPONDENCE: All correspondence was listed on the 10/26/09 agenda. There were no last minute items added to this agenda.**

**j.12. – Note from J. Luhrs/CFO, 10/1/09, re: 2010 Budget Requests** – members discussed their budget requests for 2010. D. Kellogg stated that there will be a need to purchase more bottles for the salt monitoring project. It may also be necessary to hire an outside testing agency. D. Kellogg also stated that she has not yet had a chance to organize her receipts for the 4-H Fair, etc. Since it is not known yet if there will be a Spring Newsletter, it was decided to request \$1200 for this purpose. D. Kellogg also suggested that we allow \$500 for stream/salt monitoring just in case we have a snowy winter and more testing will be needed. It was decided to lower Other Expenses from \$700 to \$500. Dues/Meeting/Training/Courses will be lowered to \$700. F. Clair motioned to accept the budget requests as stated above. D. Kellogg seconded the motion and all were in favor. Secretary will turn in the requests to J. Luhrs.

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**OPEN TO COMMISSION MEMBERS: no comments received.**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None present.**

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

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Joyce S. Corboy, Secretary

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| 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 |                     |                  |