

EAST AMWELL PLANNING BOARD MINUTES
7:30 PM East Amwell Municipal Building
July 11, 2012 - Meeting

Call to Order, Attendance and Pledge of Allegiance

This meeting of the East Amwell Planning Board was opened on July 11, 2012 at 7:30 PM. The following notice was read, "In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, this is a regularly scheduled meeting pursuant to the annual meeting notice as published in the January 19, 2012 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat, a copy of the agenda for this meeting was forwarded to the Hunterdon County Democrat, filed in the Township Clerk's Office and posted on the bulletin board on July 5, 2012."

Present: Fred Gardner
Rob Gilbert
Linda Lenox
Don Reilly, Chairman
Dart Sageser
Michael Weis
Roger DeLay – Alt. #1 – *(arrived at 7:32 PM)*
Edward Feinberg – Alt. #2
Planner Slagle

Excused: Gail Glashoff
Joe Wolfgang

Citizens' Privilege to Speak on Items not on the Agenda

It was noted for the record that there were no members of the public present at the meeting at this time.

Review of Minutes

A motion by Rob Gilbert, seconded by Fred Gardner to approve the Board's minutes from 5/9/12 was approved with no revisions noted and with Chairman Reilly, Mr. DeLay and Mr. Feinberg abstaining.

New Business – Other

Discussion: Renewable Energy Ordinance – Status Update

Planner Slagle commented that revisions had been sent to the Township Attorney's office for review with some comments received from Attorney Dieterly. She noted that the comments were regarding some language clarification and additional details on grading and drainage.

It was the consensus of the Board that since Attorney Dieterly's comments did not raise any policy issues, the Township Committee should proceed on the amended Solar Ordinance that was provided to them. A motion by Fred Gardner, seconded by Dart Sageser recommending the Township Committee move forward with the revised Solar Ordinance was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Discussion: Tree Harvesting Ordinance – Status Update

Chairman Reilly noted that there was a meeting with the Tree Harvesting subcommittee along with the Mayor and the Township Attorney which resulted in a 7/1/12 memo from Attorney Staples of the Township Attorney’s Office. Chairman Reilly remarked that the memo contained comments regarding such things as definitions, permitting and enforcement. He stated that the subcommittee has not had the opportunity to meet again to go over the suggestions made by Attorney Staples. He added that Mr. Weis is in the process of selling his home and moving. He noted that since Mr. Weis will not be on the Board next year a new Chair for the Tree Harvesting subcommittee needs to be considered. Support was expressed for Mr. Sageser to consider taking the position.

Oral Reports

FOSPC – Mr. Gardner noted a memo sent by FOSPC Administrator Judy Conard requesting the Planning Board’s support of FOSPC’s funding application for the purchase of the Plimpton property located on Rileyville Road which adjoins the Hunterdon County Sourland Preserve.

A motion was made by Fred Gardner, seconded by Michael Weis requesting the Planning Board write a letter expressing their support for the funding application to purchase the Plimpton property. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Mr. Gardner also reported that 243 acres were preserved within the Township over the past 12 months. He noted the total cost was about \$10,000 per acre of which the Township paid \$475 per acre—or less than 5% of the total cost. He remarked that the SADC paid the entire bill for the Holcombe Farm on Wertsville Road as well as for the Jorgensen parcel (Southwark Farm) on Boss Road. Mr. Gardner commented that the SADC may not have done this if East Amwell was not so active with Preservation.

Mr. Gardner noted the Drift property closed last week. He stated it is about 60 acres located across from the East Amwell School. The other closing was on the Lang property. Mr. Gardner indicated this parcel was essential to providing good access from Rocktown Road to the Omick property which only had access off of Route 31. Mr. Gardner noted this property will be managed by D&R Greenway and will have trail easements.

On a final note, Mr. Gardner reported that FOSPC has received an expression of interest from the Perkovich’s for preservation of a large parcel in the western part of the Township.

Agricultural Advisory Committee – No report was given

Environmental Commission – Mr. Sageser noted that the Environmental Commission is sponsoring a well testing program through the Raritan Headwater Association. He indicated the testing will be about \$60 per well.

Wastewater Management – No report was given

PB Secretary – No report was given

Chairman – No report was given

East Amwell Township Planning Board Minutes – 7/11/12

Correspondence

It was noted that the County has approved the Everitt property solar project “unconditionally,” indicating the project is moving forward.

Open to the Public

It was noted that there were no members of the public present at the meeting at this time.

Presentation of Vouchers

A motion by Rob Gilbert, seconded by Fred Gardner to approve the vouchers for payment as listed on the agenda was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Adjournment

Chairman Reilly adjourned the meeting at 8:01 PM.

Maria Andrews, Administrative Officer