

EAST AMWELL PLANNING BOARD MINUTES
7:30 PM East Amwell Municipal Building
April 9, 2014 - Meeting

Call to Order, Attendance and Pledge of Allegiance

This meeting of the East Amwell Planning Board was opened on April 9, 2014 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 16, 2014 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 April 2, 2014."

Present: Roger DeLay
Rob Gilbert
Gail Glashoff
Linda Lenox
Don Reilly, Chairman
Dart Sageser
David Wang-Iverson
Gail Skupien – Alt. #1
Planner Slagle

Excused: Fred Gardner
Maria Souza – Alt. #2

Citizens' Privilege to Speak on Items not on the Agenda

Chairman Reilly opened the floor to public comment. Seeing no members of the public come forward, a motion by Rob Gilbert, seconded by Gail Glashoff to close to the public was unanimously approved.

Review of Minutes

A motion by Dart Sageser, seconded by Rob Gilbert to approve the Board's minutes from 3/12/14 with no revisions noted was approved with Ms. Lenox, Ms. Glashoff and Mr. Wang-Iverson abstaining.

New Business – Other

Presentation: County Planning Board Member Phil Greiner to Make a 10 Minute Presentation on the County's "Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy"

Mr. Greiner came forward and introduced himself. He noted he serves on the Flemington Borough Council, the Flemington Planning Board and the County Planning Board. He indicated that the County had asked the board members to make brief presentations to the municipalities explaining what the County Planning Board does.

Mr. Greiner remarked that the County Planning Board does not spend much time on applications but rather focuses on such things as farmland and open space preservation, wastewater management and transportation planning. He noted there are 4 full time planners and 3 administrative assistants on staff at the county. Mr. Greiner stated that the county's resources are available to the municipalities for services such as printing. He added that they are also always interested in exploring shared services and are currently focusing on a Comprehensive Economic Development Study. He explained that they are gathering information on where the county is economically and comparing it with national averages to determine how future development should take place.

Mr. Gilbert asked if the funding trends for open space preservation are moving away from public resources and more toward private funding. Mr. Greiner indicated he didn't know.

Chairman Reilly asked what type of shared services the County would be interested in. Mr. Greiner noted animal control and commented that the utilization and sharing of certain equipment may also be possible.

Mr. Greiner added that the county holds a Planning Excellence Award banquet each year and encouraged the Township to enter at least one project annually. He also noted that the county is always seeking topics of discussion for their breakfast meetings and asked if anyone had any suggestions. Mr. Sageser suggested general revitalization ideas for towns may be of interest.

Mr. Greiner thanked the Board for its time.

Discussion: The Keeping of Non-customary Animals on Residential Properties Throughout the Township – Update from Ag Advisory

Ms. Glashoff noted that the Agricultural Advisory Committee did not meet because they did not have a quorum. She commented that she hopes to have some information to share with the Planning Board next month.

Discussion: Village Study – Update from Subcommittee

Mr. Wang-Iverson noted at the subcommittee's last meeting the main focus was to distribute the survey. He indicated the residential survey was included on the last page of the April VIP newsletter. It was also handed out at the Greenfest this past Saturday. Mr. Wang-Iverson remarked that the school has an email list of all the families with students attending the school and he wants to ask the principal if they would be willing to send the survey out to that list of people. Mr. Wang-Iverson stated that the Village residents will receive the survey either by direct mail or by hand delivery.

Mr. Wang-Iverson explained that the subcommittee is also working on a survey for business owners in the Village District. It was decided that the businesses will be divided among the subcommittee members for each person to personally speak with the business owners.

It was noted that two community visioning meetings have been scheduled: Saturday, May 17, 2014 at 10:00 AM at the Kirkpatrick Church and Wednesday, May 21, 2014 at 7:30 PM at the Township Municipal Building. Ms. Andrews commented that she will provide public notice for each meeting accordingly. Chairman Reilly stated that he would like to invite the County Planner to attend the meeting on May 21, 2014. Planner Slagle noted the main goal of the meetings is to have as many members of the public as possible attend and provide input on what their concerns and issues are in the Village District. She stated it is really an information gathering opportunity.

A motion by Roger DeLay, seconded by Rob Gilbert to open to the public was unanimously approved. Frances Gavigan of 123 Wertsville Road came forward and commented that she attended a Township Committee meeting a few weeks ago where a member of the public attended and was complaining about the farming activities taking place on her neighbor's property. Ms. Gavigan suggested the Board take advantage of every opportunity they have to educate the general public on farming activities and living in a farm community.

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Chairman Reilly commented that he welcomes the Ag Advisory Committee addressing what the Planning Board had asked input on regarding recommendations for farm animals on properties throughout the township. He stated that he believes Ms. Gavigan's suggestion of holding a workshop is a great idea and encouraged the Ag Committee to follow up on it. He noted that the Planning Board is just looking for guidelines and recommendations to help educate new residents and people who are not familiar with living in a farm community.

Ms. Gavigan also noted that a member of the public attended last night's Board of Adjustment meeting and complained about a home occupation that was approved for lawn mower repairs and the resident questioned how this home based business could have gotten approved when he and others had to follow a strict process in order to get their approvals. Ms. Gavigan wanted the Planning Board to be aware of the situation.

Seeing no other members of the public come forward, a motion by Gail Glashoff, seconded by Rob Gilbert to close to the public was unanimously approved.

Presentation of Vouchers

A motion by Rob Gilbert, seconded by Roger DeLay to approve the vouchers for payment as listed on the agenda was unanimously approved.

Adjournment

Chairman Reilly adjourned the meeting at 8:22 PM.

Maria Andrews, Administrative Officer