

EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP

RECYCLING COMMITTEE MINUTES

MARCH 12, 2013 - TUESDAY, 7:30 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The March 2013 Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Recycling Committee was called to order officially at 7:32 P. M. by W. Harrison, Chairperson.

II. MINUTES - Minutes of the February 12, 2013 Business Meeting were approved with no corrections/additions. There were two abstentions. (S. Katz/M. Petrus)

III. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – M. Petrus suggested a topic of “Possible Field Trip” to be discussed under New Business.

IV. REPORTS

A. Depot Report – March 2013 – The March 2013 Depot Day Report was distributed to members prior to the meeting via e-mail by E. Johanson. 50 vehicles were serviced. The cardboard dumpster was 50% full on Saturday and was 75% full on Monday. The plastic dumpster was 33% full on Saturday and was 66 % full on Monday. One dumpster had a tear in the back which would allow recyclables to escape and the other had an accumulation of soil in the bottom. Once again, a suggestion to RVD that workable dumpsters be provided to us. W. Harrison reported that he had already called RVD and reported the damaged dumpsters. Fifteen Styrofoam egg containers were collected and E. Johnson delivered them to ADECO for recycling.

Checking the dumpsters on Sunday evening, E. Johanson found that the plastic container dumpster was contaminated with wood, metal and garbage to the point that it would have been rejected by RVD. It was impossible to clean the dumpster alone, so M. Petrus and K. Schroeder were called to assist. It took three people and two trucks over an hour to clean out the dumpster. Metal items were stacked by the shed and can be recycled on Clean-Up Day. Garbage and wood items were placed in the Municipal dumpster. M. Petrus suggested putting an article in the VIP about this incident. W. Harrison asked that T. Mathews report about these problems to the Township Committee. Once again, members discussed how to avoid this happening again. Some suggestions made were: deer hunter camera that could be hung on a tree (T. Mathews), putting a temporary fence up around the dumpsters (T. Mathews), paying for pick-up of the dumpsters on Saturday after the Depot hours (M. Petrus), and moving the Depot to the grit yard (T. Mathews). E. Johanson suggested that residents be asked to be aware of people dumping garbage and report it to the Municipal Building. W. Harrison will call RVD to inquire about the extra charge for early pick-up, pointing out, however, that a substantial amount of recyclables would be lost. Thus, the Township would have its tonnage amounts lowered – less grant money. T. Mathews also suggested having one of the Road Crew come out to assist if garbage is found. W. Harrison stated that minimum hours required might be a problem. W. Harrison informed members that he has just received information that states that in the next few years, less monies will be received from the State, including grant funds.

B. Environmental Commission Report – M. Petrus informed members that he did not attend the Environmental Commission February meeting. Thus, no report was received. Secretary

reported that it was a short meeting and that most of the discussion was centered around plans for the Green Fest. It was also reported that M. Petrus made a site visit to the Lang property – major subdivision – his report was given to the Planning Board secretary.

C. Township Committee Report – T. Mathews reported that the Township Committee has been very involved in budget meetings. He briefly explained about the \$185,000 deficit and how the Township Committee is trying to solve the problem – using open space trust fund to pay down debt (open space trust fund tax now generates more monies than needed – lower assessments), hold back monies from the fund for those who do not pay taxes, increase taxes and/or refinance. Municipal budgets and requests are being looked at very closely. Next budget meeting is Thursday night. T. Mathews also reported that the Chief Financial Officer has resigned and well as the Assistant CFO. A temporary assistant CFO has been named until the position can be filled.

D. SWAC Report – SWAC did not meet in February 2013. Reorganizational meeting is scheduled for next week. The Educational Sub-Committee did meet. Topics discussed: postcard mailings to residents (perceived as not effective), update website, and a proposed draft booklet on recycling (to be available by request only). He also distributed a copy of the annual State’s Recycling Poetry Calendar.

E. Other - No other reports were received.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Articles for the VIP - Suggested subjects: article on paper shredding event, a report on the garbage (list of exact items) left in the March Depot Day dumpsters, the collection of DVDs and egg cartons at the Depot. S. Katz will forward these suggestions to J. Bradstreet. J. Corboy will send articles to the VIP on Clean-Up Day, Roadside Clean-Up and Plant Swap.

B. Green Fest Update – Members discussed set up on Friday. M. Petrus presented his plans for a chart to list the TerraCycle items and other recyclables. W. Harrison will have his tape on single-stream recycling – 8 minute tape to be shown continuously. M. Petrus also plans on having a sign-up sheet for volunteers, prospective members and student members. J. Bradstreet has photos of recent Depot Days that will be exhibited. Information will be available on Clean-Up Day. S. Katz was asked to check on the prices from Don Jon for electronic and metal recycling prices. Secretary suggested that members of the Recycling Committee be involved in the upcoming contract discussions with waste haulers/recyclers for the municipality. W. Harrison will call T. Matheny with our suggestions and inquiries about the upcoming contract negotiations with waste haulers/recyclers.

C. Paper Shredding Update – S. Katz reported on the final plans for the Paper Shredding event. It will be held on May 4 in conjunction with the Depot Day. The fee is \$450.00 for a three hour period, or until the truck is full, whichever comes first. T. Mathews volunteered to forward publicity about this event to the East Amwell School. M. Petrus will have information available for the Green Fest table. Secretary had the voucher for this amount and needed authorization to sign it. M. Petrus made the motion to approve authorization to sign voucher for a Paper Shredding event in the amount of \$450.00. S. Katz seconded the motion and all were in favor.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Environmental Commission Goals and Priorities - 2013
- B. Copy of the secretary's memo sent to Township Committee on 2/17/13, re: Paper Shredding and Newsletter Requests
- C. Letter from G. Watson/DEP, January 2013, re: 2013 Recycling Poetry Calendar
- D. Memo from S. Pena, 2/7/13, re: Recycling Inspections within your municipality
- E. E-mail message from T. Stahl, 2/14/13, re: Service – Information Request
- F. Various Minutes and Agendas
- G. Resource Recycling Magazine – February & March 2013

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Styrofoam Egg Carton Recycling** – Motion was made by M. Petrus, and seconded by E. Johanson, that Styrofoam egg cartons be collected at the Depot Day. All were in favor.
- B. Possible Field Trip** – M. Petrus suggested a sponsored trip with the school to a single stream facility. It might be a way to entice students to join the Recycling Committee. It was suggested that the school or RVD be asked if they have the funds for such a trip. M. Petrus will investigate the possibility with the school. TerraCycle was also mentioned as a possible trip, as well as Colgate in New Brunswick.

VIII. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – None present

IX. OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE – S. Katz stated that she did some investigation into the Special Enterprise District – garbage and recycling done Township wide by one hauler – to be charged outside taxation budgets. W. Harrison briefly explained what information he had on the topic from a previous SWAC meeting. He will forward the information to T. Mathews. It will be placed on the April agenda under Old Business.

S. Katz also investigated the possibility of grant funds obtained through the Green Team. M. Petrus explained that the Environmental Commission started work on a Green Team, but found out that the Township already does most of what they require and that the plan does not exactly fit with the rural area of East Amwell Township. The Environmental Commission did not have the manpower to follow through with all of their requirements. So the project was dropped. Secretary explained that we would have to apply again and obtain acceptance first before applying any for any grants. M. Petrus will follow-up with D. Sageser at the Environmental Commission meeting.

M. Petrus reported that he found information about plastic bag recycling and will follow up with it.

X. ADJOURNMENT – 9:10 PM. (M. Petrus/T. Mathews)

Respectfully submitted by

Joyce S. Corboy
Recycling Coordinator

PRESENT: W. Harrison, S. Katz, M. Petrus, E. Johanson, T. Mathews,
J. Corboy, Coordinator/Secretary

ABSENT: M. Dessel, J. Bradstreet

NOTE: These minutes have been formally approved by the Recycling Committee at their April 9, 2013 meeting.

NEXT MEETING: April 9, 2013 - 7:30 PM

cc: Rec. Com. Members
Recreation Com.
Environ. Com.

Board of Health
Planning Board
Twp. Bulletin Board

Twp. Committee & Clerk
Zoning Board of Adjustment
Farmland & Open Space Preservation