

**MEETING MINUTES
EAST AMWELL RECREATION COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 18, 2014; EAST AMWELL MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 1070 ROUTE 202, RINGOES, NJ**

CALL TO ORDER & OPEN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

The meeting of the East Amwell Recreation Committee was called to order at 7:33 PM by Committee Member Pete Fick. P. Fick read the following: In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, it was noted that this is a regular Business Meeting pursuant to the meeting notice published in the December 19, 2013, issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. Notice of this meeting was filed in the Township Clerk's Office, sent to the Hunterdon County Democrat, and the agenda was posted on the municipal bulletin board.

2014 ATTENDANCE

Recreation Committee Member (term expires)	1/16/14	2/20/14	3/20/14	4/17/14	5/15/14	6/19/14	7/17/14	8/21/14	9/18/14	10/16/14	11/20/14	12/18/14
Amy Atzert (12/31/16)		X			X		X		X		X	X
Michael Atzert (12/31/16)	X	X			X	X	X		X		X	
Pete Fick (12/31/14)	X	X	X		X	X	X		X		X	X
Erica Johanson, Alt II (12/31/16)	X		X			X	X		X		X	X
Chris Kellogg, Alt. I (12/31/14)	X	7:45	X		X		X				7:38	
Thyra Zengel (12/31/14)		7:35	X						7:37		7:34	X
Sandra Gensini, Alt. III (12/31)		X			X	X	X		7:46		7:48	
Tim Mathews							X		7:48			

Others present: Recording Secretary Maria Prendamano

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: No members of the public were present.

PRESENTATION OF NOVEMBER 20th, 2014, MEETING MINUTES

A. Atzert made a motion, seconded by T. Zengel, and unanimously approved by all to accept the November 20, 2014 meeting minutes as submitted.

PRESENTATION OF INVOICES: None – Invoices from Home Depot, Shoprite and Oriental Trading have been submitted. All pending invoices were for the Tree Lighting.

PRESENTATION OF UPDATED RECREATION BUDGET: No changes from last month. The Committee agreed that the budget should remain the same next year.

PRESENTATION BY US SPORTS INSTITUTE: Nicola Sichi was present representing US Sports Institute. Kathy Veith of the Summer Playground program was also present. Ms. Sichi explained that her company provides sports programs for children from 2 to 14 years old. US Sports Institute provides the staff and equipment. They do a revenue share with the Township Committee. All the company needs to provide the service is a large grassy field and bathroom facilities. The majority of the coaches are from the U.K. They are all put through rigorous background checks, CPR training and fingerprinting.

T. Zengel inquired as to the difference between the programs. Also, whether or not the Township picks the sport or the company. N. Sichi explained that depending on the need and/or facilities, the Township can pick the sport. The Multi Sports program is very popular. The goal is to teach sportsmanship as

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well as the sport. All of the children are included. Some keep score, some assist coaches. Two evacuation drills are performed during the week for safety. M. Prendamano asked what the coach/child ratio is. For the 5 to 11 year old children it is 1 coach per 12 children. In the 3 to 5 year old program it is 1 coach per 10. The minimum enrollment for the 5 – 11 year old program is 60. If the camp is not making the numbers, parents are contacted and asked to try to recruit friends. The company does all of the promotions and flyers.

K. Veith mentioned that there may be an issue with backing up to the Summer Playground with regard to lunch. N. Sichi suggested a Multi Sports Camp the week after Summer Playground. She suggested sending literature home with the children that are attending Summer Playground. K. Veith suggested that she check with the school to see if they will send out flyers. N. Sichi would like to hand out flyers at the Egg Hunt. They will make every effort to attend any community events to provide information to parents. The suggested week is July 27th. T. Zengel brought up the issue of venue. N. Sichi stated that for the Multi Sport program they need a grassy field. They would make use of a basketball court and tennis field if available. T. Zengel suggested Clawson Park as a possible venue. Since the program is purely recreational she feels that it might be worth looking into it. K. Veith stated that some residents may feel that their use of the park may be restricted. T. Zengel inquired about the size of the grassy field. Clawson Park may be too small. She suggested the municipal fields as an alternative. The only other possible location would be the school. T. Zengel stated that construction will be going on at the school. There are soccer fields, basketball courts and a baseball field at the school. The program would have to provide a port – a – john at the school. P. Fick feels that the best option would be the municipal fields.

N. Sichi noted that the company contacts parents via email. All of the information is provided to the parent on the first day of camp. She stated that her company would handle registration. T. Zengel inquired about insurance. N. Sichi stated that the company provides liability insurance. On a rainy day, if it is just light rain, the camp will go on. If it is heavy rain, the camp is cancelled. If a day is lost, they will make every effort to make up the day. Usually the make-up day is on a Saturday.

K. Veith stated that a make-up day might not appeal to parents. The make-up day may not fit in to their schedule. She noted that many parents complain about the cost of the Summer Playground which is \$65 for twenty days. N. Sichi said that her full day program is \$169 for the week. The half day is \$129. The 1p.m. to 4 p.m. is \$109. The parent can opt to send the child for a full, half or afternoon session for any given week. The company offers Spring and Fall programs as well. T. Zengel suggested a Fall weekly tennis program. K. Veith asked that the date be left open until they have a definitive date for Summer Playground.

N. Sichi would like to offer a program during the Spring season. It would begin in April and end in June. T. Zengel noted that it would be a conflict with field usage. K. Veith asked if the program would be offered only to East Amwell residents or neighboring towns. T. Zengel suggested seeing how many children from East Amwell enroll before we open the opportunity up to neighboring towns. N. Sichi suggested having the link added to the Township and schools website.

REPORTS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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1. Soccer Fields Policy in Progress: M. Prendamano made note of damage done to the field by the truck emptying the port-a-john. The truck left ruts in the ground. The damage is not on the field. M. Prendamano will forward the photo to Regina of South County Soccer and S. Gensini.
2. South County Soccer – No report.
3. East Amwell Soccer Fields Update – see above.
4. Movie Night – No report.
5. South County Park – No report.
6. Annual Tree Lighting – Tree Lighting was a great success. P. Fick asked when we will do the take down. Sunday, December 28th at 1:30 p.m. all will meet to remove decorations. M. Prendamano will email J. Silverthorne to remove the star.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Purchase a light hook for decorating next year – The Committee agreed to purchase a hook to put the lights on the tree next year. M. Prendamano will try and find one.

Farmland and Open Space Preservation Committee – P. Fick reported that FOSPC has made a few recent acquisitions. Nothing else to report

CORRESPONDENCE

An advertisement for pre-filled eggs;

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC None present

ADJOURNMENT

A. Atzert made a motion, seconded by E. Johanson, and unanimously approved by all to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maria Prendamano, Recording Secretary