

EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP

RECYCLING COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 9, 2014 - TUESDAY, 7:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER AND STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

7:34 p.m.

In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, it is announced that this is a regularly scheduled Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Recycling Committee, as published in the January 23, 2014 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat.

ROLL CALL:

Present: S. Katz, M. Petrus, R. O'Reilly, P. Folk, M. Prendamano, Youth Members: J. Castellano, L. Prendamano, J. Miller

Absent: W. Harrison, E. Johanson, T. Mathews, M. Dessel

MINUTES

Minutes of the August 12, 2014, business meeting were presented and M. Petrus made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by S. Katz. All members were in favor with one abstention from P. Folk.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: S. Katz added the Annual Newsletter Art Contest to New Business

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: No public comment.

REPORTS

Youth Report – J. Castellano reported that she has not had a response from Maschio's Food Service or Princeton Molding. She also noted that she discovered that the molding at the front of the Municipal Building was made of Styrofoam. Maschio's is expected to be at Back to School Night. Jenna hopes to speak to a representative at that time.

Recently the children contacted, via email, a company called FYPON. This company produces Styrofoam molding. They are hoping to hear from them soon. The children presented the Committee with an article about a group of students in Maryland who are facing similar issues with Styrofoam lunch trays. The article presents some possible solutions and compromises such as using compostable trays at least once per week.

L. Prendamano reported that school would benefit from increased labeling at the school. J. Miller reported that Amazon.com sells a recycling logo stencil for \$11.64. He proposed that the Committee purchase this stencil for the children to borrow for use at the school. He suggested that the Committee

use the stencil during baseball season and for the 4H fair. R. O'Reilly recommended using spray paint that adheres to plastic and/or neon for nighttime situations. M. Petrus made a motion to purchase the stencil. R. O'Reilly seconded the motion. All members were in favor of purchasing the stencil from Amazon.com for \$11.64. M. Prendamano will submit the Purchase Order. J. Castellano will contact the school Principal about placing more recycling cans throughout the school. J. Miller will speak to Mrs. Ernst about purchasing the paint. The children will create an email account for themselves for the purpose of their involvement in this committee.

Depot Report – September 2014: M. Petrus reported that there were three volunteers. One did not show up. Fifty-three residents used the depot. The paper dumpster was 65% full Saturday and 70% full Sunday. The plastics/glass dumpster was 35% full on Saturday and 40% full on Sunday. There was a moderate amount of TerraCycle collected along with a small amount of bottle caps, egg cartons, CD's and Styrofoam. The weather was sunny and calm.

M.Petrus added that he had agreed to do recycling at the Harvest Fest. He had eight containers ready but could not get past the barricades to set them up. He gave the containers to the workers who set them up. M. Petrus did not check where the containers were placed. The cans were set up randomly throughout the event. There were not a lot of recycled materials. Much of the recycling containers contained trash. K. Schroeder came with a pick-up truck. R. O'Reilly suggested we put a program into place for next year. He also suggested neon glow paint for the containers since it is dark. M. Petrus suggested making three dimensional signs that would clearly label containers. He also suggested that the receptacles be placed on a one to one ratio with trash cans. It appears the vendors need guidance. P. Folk will reach out to his contacts at the Firehouse.

M. Petrus also reported that a resident at the depot asked that the Recycling Committee no longer hand out the VIP as they feel it is politically biased. He did ask the resident to cite examples of such bias. The resident said that he attempted to put an article in the paper and was turned down. The resident also stated that the Republican candidates did not get their statements in on time so they were not published. M. Petrus brought this issue to the Committee for discussion. The Committee did discuss this and all members agreed that the paper is not biased and serves as an important tool for the Committee in that it keeps residents informed of recycling issues.

Environmental Commission Report: M. Prendamano reported that the Commission has narrowed down the list of conservation easements and will attempt to do more site visits. There was a member of the public present from North Jersey Resource Conservation and Development. She informed the Commission that there is a grant available to residents and commercial businesses in East Amwell for the placement of rain gardens. The rain gardens are free and there are still some available. The school may be putting one in. The literature if anyone is interested is at the front desk in the Municipal Building.

Township Committee Update: No member from the Township Committee was present.

SWAC Report: SWAC did not meet – nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

Articles for the VIP: M. Prendamano suggested that the November 8th Hazardous Waste Collection be put in the article. S. Katz noted that the County Complex has to be listed the place for drop off. It was not listed in the previous article. The My Sign Up link will be put in the article again. S. Katz is concerned that more slots are not filled. M. Prendamano will forward the link to the school. M. Petrus feels the link is working well. S. Katz will contact volunteers if slots remain unfilled. M. Prendamano will add a Youth Activity Report to the article.

M. Petrus asked the Youth Members to update the Committee on the latest items collected for TerraCycle. The children will ask S. Ernst what items she would like the Committee to collect at the monthly depots. He asked the children if they could find out if the school will begin collecting bottle caps for the Committee.

Styrofoam Recycling Update: M. Petrus reported he has still not had any contact with Princeton Molding. He found a place in Bristol, P.A. that may take the Styrofoam. He is waiting to hear back from them. He found another company that will accept Styrofoam with the number ‘6’ symbol on it. He also stated that the Styrofoam will be collected again in January.

Metals Recycling Update: E. Johanson is not present to report.

Recycling Procedures at 4H Fairgrounds M. Petrus reported that there were four volunteers at the 4H Fair including himself: E. Johanson, R. O’Reilly, and W. Harrison. On Wednesday he met with Alan Johnson and the Fair Committee members. Fair volunteers set out wheeled containers and plastic racks. He distributed flyers with E. Johanson to the vendors and picked up cardboard stacked around from set-up. A 20 yard dumpster was set up behind the rides but was taped off and adjacent to the parked garbage dumpsters making unloading difficult.

Recyclables were picked up Thursday through Monday morning. As he was picking up garbage he encountered the garbage crew coming in the opposite direction. They were collecting everything (ie: an open box of clean #10 tin cans). The driver said they had no regular pattern of collection.

Nine of the wheeled containers were found Thursday in the rear of the grounds. He and his crew distributed these in the midway and community service areas. He was later told that the containers were too heavy to handle and that plastic bags were preferred.

A 20 yard dumpster was filled and compressed Monday morning with a front end loader. An estimated 95 gallons of used cooking oil were collected for use as bio-fuel. A large number of plastic bags were recycled at ShopRite.

M. Petrus feels more thought needs to be put into the placement of recycling containers at the fair. Wheeled containers should be picked up by a truck and dumped directly from the bed into the dumpster. Coordination of pick-up routes is a must going forward. Dumpster access should be discussed next year.

R. O'Reilly suggested putting colored stakes in the ground to indicate the placement of containers.

INVOICES – One invoice was presented for payment from Amazon.com for recycling logo stickers. It will be presented next month for Chairman W. Harrison to sign.

CORRESPONDENCE – Various newsletters and articles. Email from Angela Anderson, Recycling Coordinator at Long Beach Township. She explained that their large plastic collection is done through their County.

NEW BUSINESS S. Katz brought up the annual Newsletter and the art contest for the children at the school. She designed an entry form for children to fill out. There is one for the calendar page and one for the title. M. Prendamano and S. Katz will work on creating the entry form for the children so that they understand where the design is to go. The children will be directed to use a fine tip black marker. The name and grade will be listed on the bottom so that it can be folded over for the purpose of judging. This contest will be limited to the children of the Environmental Club. M. Petrus suggested that the entry be accompanied by a letter explaining what the Environmental Commission and Recycling Committee's responsibilities are. The winning entries will have their artwork published and receive a certificate from the respective Committee's. The deadline for submission is December 5th. M. Prendamano will collect entries and bring them to the Committee for judging.

OPEN TO COMMITTEE

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by P. Folk. This Motion was seconded by S. Katz, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Maria Prendamano
Recycling Committee Coordinator

NEXT MEETING: – October 14, 2014 7:30 PM

CC: Rec. Com. Members Board of Health Twp. Committee & Clerk
Recreation Com. Planning Board Zoning Board of Adjustment
Environmental Com. Twp. Bulletin Board Farmland/Open Space Preservation