

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
RECYCLING COMMITTEE MINUTES
BUSINESS MEETING
April 14, 2015 – Tuesday, 7:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER AND STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, W. Harrison called the meeting to order at 7:42 p.m., adding that this is a regularly scheduled meeting of the East Amwell Township Recycling Committee, as published in the January 22, 2015 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat.

Members in attendance: W. Harrison, E. Johanson, A. Castellano, M. Petrus, R. O'Reilly, T. Mathews (arr. at 8:10 p.m.), Youth Member J. Castellano
Absent: M. Dessel; M. Prendamano

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the February 10, 2015 Meeting were approved on a motion by R. O'Reilly, seconded by A. Castellano, and carried unanimously.

Unofficial Notes from the March 10, 2015 Meeting were accepted on a motion by M. Petrus, seconded by E. Johanson, and carried unanimously as accurately documenting what was discussed.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Athletic Field Recycling will be added under the Depot Report, and Clean-Up Day will be added as New Business. M. Petrus will help W. Harrison on Clean-Up Day, and another helper is needed.

R. O'Reilly wanted to add a letter he prepared to be sent to other organizations as part of an outreach about services; W. Harrison suggested that this be added under Old Business, Welcome Packet.

REPORTS

Youth Report: None

The reorganization minutes will be reviewed to confirm whether E. Johanson was appointed as Vice Chair at that time. S. Katz resigned from the Committee, and members recognized the need for new members to assist. A. Castellano suggest recruiting at Greenfest, and W. Harrison added that the Committee is also looking at previous volunteers.

Depot Report: E. Johanson reported windy conditions at the last depot, adding that she previously provided her report to all.

W. Harrison spoke about recycling on the ballfields, finding the municipal Dumpster half full of recyclables by the athletic field users. W. Harrison sent a memo to the Chair of the Recreation Committee, who forwarded it to two of the members. E. Johanson will bring the matter up at the Recreation Committee meeting on Thursday. A. Castellano suggested that there may have been no recycling containers in place when practices began about a month ago; E. Johanson suggested putting up recycling signs as reminders in late winter before the ball season begins. M. Petrus suggested a broad point sign to be placed on the recycling shed door or made available for the baseball shed for next year. M. Petrus also suggested that the league might want to consider donating old sports equipment that was also found in the trash. E. Johanson will bring this up at the Recreation Committee meeting and report back to the Recycling Committee. J. Castellano will help bullet-point information that W. Harrison prepared for athletic field recycling.

Environmental Commission Report: E. Johanson reported that the Commission is getting ready for Greenfest, working on a presentation on monarchs from a woman from Hopewell. They are also getting flyers from the University of Minneapolis for a program where you can purchase “plugs” at cost rather than planting seeds for butterfly plants. J. Castellano spoke about a teacher at East Amwell School who encourages students to plant seeds.

E. Johanson added that the Commission is looking at having some interaction with school students/educational programs this year. T. Stahl added that the Township would receive credits for student/township programs on Stormwater Management, and E. Johanson said that they would consider this suggestion.

Township Committee Report: W. Harrison attended the April 9th Township Committee meeting and provided a report on recycling history, activities, and his involvement in serving throughout the years. T. Stahl said that the report was favorably received.

SWAC Report: W. Harrison reported that there was a quorum, and he was again elected Chairman. The Committee may be looking at holding meetings on a different day, and Alan Johnson is surveying committee members about this. The Transfer Station will be closing sometime this year due to finances (cheaper to bring waste to PA); some field trips may be arranged by the Committee this year; specific county run waste dates were mentioned for 2015.

M. Petrus suggested that the closed transfer facility might be used to store Styrofoam before being transferred by the County to a recycling facility. W. Harrison explained that the facility is owned by the state, and the lease will be up, thereby saving County tax dollars; any other usage would have to be approved by the Freeholders.

Other: There were no other reports.

OLD BUSINESS

Articles for the VIP: M. Prendamano is working on articles to encourage membership and educate the public about Styrofoam collection.

Styrofoam Collection: M. Petrus said that Styrofoam is being kept in the shed, along with Terracycle materials. W. Harrison commented favorably on community support of the Terracycle program. E. Johanson reminded members to vote in a school playground contest.

Welcome Packet: T. Mathews arrived during this discussion. R. O'Reilly explained that this was discussed about two months ago, adding that the Recycling Committee members meet new residents at the depot who are not aware of community activities and availability of services. He provided a draft letter that he prepared to be sent to community organizations and others to let them know about East Amwell; he envisioned a pamphlet to be provided to new residents via realtors and the tax office. Some discussion took place with the following highlights: T. Mathews questioned using tax dollars to prepare a community-based pamphlet, adding that it could not exclude any organization; it was believed that the Mayor attended a previous Recycling Committee meeting and was supportive of the project; W. Harrison said that the Township's website was the primary place to go for information, adding that keeping it up to date is important; R. O'Reilly suggested that the pamphlet be all inclusive, i.e., Township information and community information; A. Castellano suggested preparing a list of who to include as a good first step; T. Mathews thought that a better avenue for this project would be a business association since it is not the intent of the municipality to market or endorse organizations/groups. In conclusion, R. O'Reilly withdrew his offer to prepare the pamphlet through this committee, and he will do it on his own.

Greenfest: The Recycling Committee will have a table, and tri-folds prepared last year were retrieved from the basement to be updated. The Youth Members will be involved; a video about sorting recyclables will be shown; an active appeal for more members for the Recycling Committee will be done; Greenfest is not on the same day as the depot this year (less activities), and there will be trail walks and a plant swap on that day. A. Castellano agreed to work on Greenfest with direction from the Committee. M. Petrus provided the tri-folds, including one on Clawson Park, one on recycling materials, and one on the Environmental Commission – they will be updated to make “new.” Preparing handouts was also suggested with updated information on Styrofoam collection to be included.

There will be a tour of Clawson Park, led by Steve Souza to discuss the drainage plans. M. Petrus was copied on an email from Environmental Commission member Toni Petrus about this.

Clean-Up Day: T. Stahl said that only 3 permits have been sold so far, and she will have materials ready for W. Harrison the day before the event. W. Harrison and M. Petrus will be at the depot, and R. O'Reilly may also attend to help direct traffic.

BILLS OF THE EVENING

Two bills, Hunterdon County for printing of the newsletter in the amount of \$454.00 and to the USPS for mailing the newsletter in the amount of \$472.92 were approved on a motion by R. O'Reilly, seconded by M. Petrus, and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

E. Johanson mentioned a program to send 55 pounds of batteries to be recycled at a cost of \$110; W. Harrison discouraged this as an option since Hunterdon County tried to recycle them in the past, and there is a fire hazard potential. The Committee thanked M. Petrus for looking into this.

While there was no new business, the Committee looked their 2015 Goals, which W. Harrison had on paper.

2015 Goals

W. Harrison read from the list of goals, which were favorably received. One bullet point was discussed in depth, regarding “a goal of 100% participation” for recycling. R. O’Reilly felt that this was immeasurable and, therefore, not a goal. M. Petrus recommended wording “to encourage participation.” R. O’Reilly suggested adding increasing the depot goal by 10-20% a year as a good standard; W. Harrison explained that many people use curbside recycling and may not use the depot. It was unclear how many people do use curb-side recycling. W. Harrison commented on East Amwell being about number 16th or 17th in recycling numbers in Hunterdon County. M. Petrus commented on metal recycling in Hillsborough, which he recently did.

The goal was changed to “Increase Public Awareness of Recycling and Strive for 50% Recycling of Total Solid Waste Disposal.”

Motion to approve the revised goals was approved by M. Petrus, seconded by A. Castellano, and carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

A flyer for a Spring Program of NJ Clean Communities at the Jersey Shore (May 20-22) and the Resource Recycling Magazine for April 2015 were noted.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by M. Petrus, seconded by E. Johanson, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

