

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
RECYCLING COMMITTEE MINUTES
REORGANIZATION MEETING
January 13, 2015 - 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 the reorganization Meeting of the East Amwell Township Recycling Committee, as published in the December 18, 2014 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat.

ROLL CALL:

Present: W. Harrison, S. Katz, M. Petrus, A. Castellano, M. Prendamano, R. O'Reilly, T. Mathews, E. Johanson, Youth Members: J. Castellano, L. Prendamano

Absent: M. Dessel, Youth Member: J. Miller

MINUTES

Minutes of the December 9, 2014, business meeting were presented by W. Harrison for approval. M. Petrus made a motion to approve the minutes from December 9, 2014. A. Castellano seconded the motion. All members were in favor of approval with three abstentions from T. Mathews, R. O'Reilly and E. Johanson.

ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTION: M. Prendamano read the 2015 Resolution and noted that the Recycling Committee meetings will continue to be held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. prevailing time. The Committee unanimously approved the resolution.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

M. Prendamano, Secretary, chaired this portion of the meeting, calling for nominations for Chairperson of the 2015 Recycling Committee. E. Johanson nominated W. Harrison, and it was seconded by M. Petrus. There was a call for any further nominations, and there were none. Nominations were closed by M. Petrus and seconded by T. Mathews. W. Harrison was voted into office unanimously.

Nominations were open for Vice Chair of the Recycling Committee. M. Petrus nominated S. Katz for this position, and it was seconded by E. Johanson. There were no further nominations, and a motion was made by M. Petrus, seconded by A. Castellano to close the nominations. S. Katz was voted into office unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: S. Katz added the website under articles for the VIP. M. Petrus added a project under Youth Report and M. Prendamano corrected the agenda under Depot Report to state January instead of November and list W. Harrison instead of E. Johanson.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: W. Harrison suggested open to the public. M. Petrus made a motion to open to the public. T. Mathews seconded the motion. All members were in favor of opening the meeting to the public.

Mr. James Howarth of Snyderstown Road, was present from the public. He thanked the members of the committee for their hard work. He stated that he and his neighbors were looking at their waste collection bills from Raritan Valley. He commented on how well the monthly depots are doing and that the containers are usually filled. W. Harrison noted that they are not always filled. J. Howarth attempted to eliminate the charge for recycling from his bill and was told by Raritan Valley Disposal that it is a packaged deal. M. Petrus stated that he has spoken to Raritan Valley Disposal in the past and that they are required by the state to include recycling in the bill. A. Castellano reported that she and many of her neighbors used Smith Brothers. Smith Brothers has now been bought out by Premier. Smith Brothers collected recycling each week and now Premier picks up only twice per month.

R. O'Reilly asked J. Howarth in what way people are forced to use Raritan Valley. W. Harrison noted that you are not forced to use Raritan Valley but residents must pay for recycling from any waste company. W. Harrison is not certain where the residents that use the depot dispose of their regular trash. He stated that one could ask for a smaller garbage container. He also added that West Amwell, Flemington and Raritan have obtained a municipal bid from various haulers. All residents that opt in could do so at that price. It would be an opportunity for residents to go with the lowest bidder. M. Petrus questioned if anyone knew of a carrier that did not charge as a package. A. Castellano wondered who is bringing recycling to the monthly depot. M. Petrus stated that they do get some commercial drop offs. E. Johanson stated that she could ask residents at monthly depots if they are paying for recycling collection.

W. Harrison stated that a municipal contract is not likely in East Amwell because we have a budget cap. He has not yet contacted Lambertville to find out how it is working out for them. J. Howarth noted that prisoners are used in other townships. T. Mathews suggested that some resident may not want prisoners wondering around the neighborhoods. M. Petrus noted that the State mandates that we have the containers at the depot and the money for the cost comes from the tonnage grant. S. Katz added that the recyclables collected at the depot goes toward our reported tonnage amounts. M. Petrus noted that the tonnage goes toward the grant awarded. R. O'Reilly asked J. Howarth to restate his question as he was unsure of what he is asking. J. Howarth stated that if we are all paying for a package deal to Raritan Valley for trash and recycling collection, who is not? Are the people using the depot paying for recycling or just trash removal. T. Mathews said that if you did find out the most people that are using the depot are not paying for trash removal, than what do you do? J. Howarth stated that he is just trying to save money. He would like the opportunity to use the depot and pay only for trash removal. A. Castellano suggested to a survey at the next monthly depot. M. Petrus made a motion to conduct a survey at the next depot. E. Johanson seconded the motion. All members were unanimously in favor of conducting a survey at the next depot. M. Petrus suggested the questions address: overflow recycling, commercial establishment, whether or not you pay for curbside recycling.

R. O'Reilly suggested making the survey sound benign. J. Howarth offered to volunteer at the depot. A. Castellano suggested the Youth Members volunteer as well.

W. Harrison made a motion to close the public. M. Petrus seconded the motion. All members voted unanimously to close to the public.

REPORTS

Youth Report – L. Prendamano reported that he received a response from Dunkin Donuts regarding the use of Styrofoam cups. The company stated that they are concerned about the use of Styrofoam. They are exploring ways to minimize waste and have reduced the weight of the Styrofoam and introduced a reusable cup program. W. Harrison asked L. Prendamano how he felt about this response. L. Prendamano stated that he thought they should do more. A. Castellano stated that the letter sounds hopeful. S. Katz added that Starbucks uses paper cups.

M. Petrus asked if the children see the value in a display of materials that can be recycled. He asked them to think about making a three dimensional display that can be used at the depot and/or other community events. Perhaps a TerraCycle display would be helpful as well.

M. Prendamano distributed an updated TerraCycle list. A. Castellano reported that J. Miller will not be able to attend a meeting until March. He will revisit labeling containers then. W. Harrison informed members that there are recycling logo stickers available in the shed. M. Petrus will make some keys for the shed.

Depot Report – January 2015: W. Harrison noted that pictures of collected TerraCycle are at the bottom of the report. E. Johanson suggested putting one of the pictures in the VIP. M. Prendamano will copy it in black and white. W. Harrison reported that it was a cold day. There were about 64 or 65 residents that used the depot. He handed a piece of material around to members. The item was collected as Styrofoam.

M. Petrus dropped the TerraCycle off to the school. W. Harrison had two volunteers that signed up and called in two more. He suggested that perhaps S. Katz send an email reminder out to volunteers encouraging them to sign up for depot days. S. Katz added that the My Sign Up link is not being utilized as much as we had hoped. S. Katz emailed the link to volunteers once, M. Prendamano puts it in the VIP each month and it went out through the school. S. Katz said that the volunteer list needs to be updated. M. Petrus noted that there were three names that were not on the list. The names were given to S. Katz. M. Prendamano added that she could share the link with local Girl and Boy Scouts. W. Harrison would like to assess the My Sign Up Link and if it is working or not.

W. Harrison reported that there is a lot of Styrofoam. M. Petrus will get tarp to cover it up outside the shed since the shed is full. The item that W. Harrison shared was low density polyethylene. M. Petrus suggested keeping it as an example. W. Harrison will contact Raritan Valley Disposal to see if they will accept the item. He added that he saw some purple foam at the depot with a number 5 on it.

A discussion ensued about members volunteering for the depot. E. Johanson stated that it is hard to know your schedule that far in advance. T. Mathews would like to train to run a depot.

A. Castellano inquired why the low density polyethylene is hard to recycle when it has a recycling logo on it. S. Katz explained that although the item is recyclable our carrier may not recycle it.

Environmental Commission Report: The Commission did not meet in December. There is nothing new to report.

Township Committee Update: T. Mathews reported that the Township Committee had their reorganization meeting and regular business meeting. David Wang Iverson was appointed as Mayor and Dart Sageser as Deputy Mayor. He noted that no re-appointments were made to the Agricultural Advisory Board. He stated that there was a change in zoning officers. Pete Kneski was made the new zoning officer. The current zoning officer challenged the decision. S. Katz inquired as to why this was done. T. Mathews stated that it was an appointment made out of convenience. W. Harrison inquired as to whether or not there had been a performance related issue. T. Mathews stated that there was no performance related issue. It was the Mayor's prerogative to change zoning officers. Mr. Kneski is a resident of the town who was previously part of the governing body. S. Katz inquired when budget meeting will be held. T. Mathews stated that discussions will begin in February and hopefully they will have a budget by March. A temporary budget was approved.

SWAC Report: SWAC did not meet and will not meet again until February or March. E. Johanson will be an alternate member.

OLD BUSINESS

Articles for the VIP: M. Prendamano will add some information from the current depot report and news from TerraCycle. E. Johanson suggested adding some information from an article on plastic. M. Prendamano asked for suggestions and R. O'Reilly suggested doing the life story of a piece of TerraCycle. M. Prendamano will try to get a photo in the paper. W. Harrison suggested that the youth members come up with a poem or an informative blurb. A. Castellano offered to assist the children in creating a display board to use at the fair or Greenfest.

S. Katz noted that the member list on the website needs updating. Also, she wanted to add Clean Up day, Roadside Clean Up and County Clean Up days to the website. She would like to have the new TerraCycle list on the website. M. Prendamano will send this information to T. Stahl. W. Harrison reported that Styrofoam collection will continue until further notice. M. Petrus will begin to store it outside of the shed under a tarp. S. Katz inquired as to the cost of delivering the Styrofoam. T. Mathews stated that the delivery is made during business hours. M. Petrus stated that as long as we have the support of the Township we will continue to collect the Styrofoam.

Styrofoam Recycling Update: See the paragraph above.

Newsletter/Art Contest: M. Prendamano presented the Newsletter in progress. The artwork is going to be scanned in. Mr. Shuler, the school's computer teacher, will assist her in getting the artwork onto the document. A. Castellano created certificates for the winners. M. Prendamano will obtain two photo frames. The committee discussed how and where the certificates will be presented. The options are presenting them at the school versus the Municipal Building. M. Prendamano will discuss this with the schools Environmental Club teacher, Ms. Ernst.

INVOICES – None

CORRESPONDENCE – Various newsletters and articles along with minutes and agenda's from other committees. Resource Recycle Magazine.

NEW BUSINESS – Goals for 2015. M. Prendamano will send 2014 Goals to all members. W. Harrison brought up Clean Up Day. B. Hummel would like Roadside Clean Up to be the week prior to Spring Clean Up. W. Harrison will contact Good Will Industries to make certain they attend. S. Katz reported that Greenfest is going to be pushed to May. It may be the second weekend in May. M. Prendamano noted that the County Hazardous Waste day is March 14, the tentative day for the Egg Hunt is March 28, County Electronic Collection day is April 11 and the County Paper Shred day is April 25. April 25 is the suggested day for Spring Clean Up day. M. Prendamano is unsure of the start day for baseball. T. Mathews noted that baseball is aiming for more games on Saturdays since the ones during the week were interfering with school.

OPEN TO COMMITTEE

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by S. Katz. This Motion was seconded by A. Castellano, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Maria Prendamano
Recycling Committee Coordinator

NEXT MEETING: – February 10, 2015 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

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
RECYCLING COMMITTEE**

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Recycling Committee of the Township of East Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of new Jersey, that during 2015, The Recycling committee will hold regularly scheduled meeting on the second Tuesday of each month.

All regular meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. prevailing time, in the Small Meeting Room of the East Amwell Township Municipal building, 1070 Route 202/31, Ringoes, New Jersey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all items to be considered for the agenda shall be presented to the Recycling committee Secretary no later than one week prior to the scheduled meeting, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be published in the Hunterdon county democrat.

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICE: January 22, 2015

By Order of the Recycling Committee.

Maria Prendamano