

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP  
RECYCLING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
April 4, 2023 - TUESDAY, 7:30 P.M.**

---

**CALL TO ORDER AND STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE**

The reorganization meeting of the Recycling Committee was called to order at 7:31 PM on April 4, 2023 by R. Georgett.

**2023 ATTENDANCE (X- present; E – excused; A – absent - \* attendance via Zoom)**

Recycling Committee Member	1/10/2023	2/7/2023	3/14/2023 (revised)	4/4/2023	5/2/2023	6/6/2023	7/5/2023 (revised)	8/1/2023	9/5/2023	10/3/2023	11/7/2023 (virtual)	12/5/2023
Rachael Atlee -resigned 3/1/23	*	X	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Kate Chichon	*	A	*	*								
Mike Cotruffello -resigned 3/1/23	*	X	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Rosemary Georgett	*	X	X	X								
Susan Kadlec	X	X	X	X								
Tara Ramsey Township Committee (non voting)	X	A	*	A								
Leo Rommel	X	*	X	X								
Environmental Commission Liaison - Vacant	na	Na	na	na								
Member (2+) Vacant	na	Na	na	na								

*Others present: Beatrice Gooding*

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, this is a regular meeting of the Recycling Committee pursuant to the Notice published in the December 18, 2022 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. A copy of the agenda was forwarded to the Hunterdon County Democrat and placed on the Township Website and Bulletin Board.

**AGENDA REVIEW** – Under New Business: Clean Community Flier for Tax Mailing and Recycling Committee at the Color Run.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** – S. Kadlec made a motion to recognize that no members of the public are in attendance, L. Rommel seconded and all voted in favor.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES** - The minutes from March 14, 2023 were tabled to the next meeting.

**APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS** – R. Georgett said that \$100 would be paid from the Clean Community Mini-Grant for Amwell Lake Clean Up done in March.

**REPORTS -**

**Quarterly Report Updates:**

**Depot Reports** – R. Georgett said Mike Petrus lead the Depot and she needs to follow up with him regarding report information. S. Kadlec said she was present and there was approximately

140 lbs of plastic and a lot of Styrofoam. There weren't too many cars and quite a few volunteers. It was an overall good day. K. Chichon said the website information listing Terra Cycle collections is still wrong, and R. Georgett will follow up to get this fixed.

**Terra Cycle:** K. Chichon said she had residents bring their Terra Cycle into the shed, so she could help them understand what is/isn't collected and give out fliers. When recycling volunteers bring it in there is no opportunity to educate residents and she was able to tell them items we don't collect any longer or were never on the list. She continued that there wasn't a large number of items coming in. S. Kadlec said the list Kate put up in the shed is very helpful. K. Chichon said she threw out items that aren't collected any longer. R. Georgett said the new Terra Cycle list can be put onto the clean community flier.

**DEPOT LEAD & GRIT YARD (March to November) OPENING ASSIGNMENTS**

DATE	LEAD
April 1, 2023	L. Rommel
April 15, 2023 (Grit Yard)	R. Georgett
May 6, 2023	L. Rommel
May 20, 2023 (Grit Yard)	L. Rommel
June 3, 2023	L. Rommel
June 17, 2023 (Grit Yard)	L. Rommel
July 1, 2023	S. Kadlec
July 15, 2023 (Grit Yard)	S. Kadlec

**Volunteers for the next depot:** Leo will be lead for May and Kate will attend. L. Rommel mentioned some of the key things Depot lead needs to take care of and K. Chichon will start learning. K. Chichon said John & Ian Oats will probably be there because Ian is doing it for Honor Society.

**TREX:** R. Georgett that Dennis and Dawn will get their second bench and she will order it on May 1<sup>st</sup>. In addition Dennis and Dawn said they will continue to come and help at the Depot in the summer. S. Kadlec said they do live in East Amwell, so it would be great if they're interested in joining the committee and maybe leading TREX.

**Styrofoam:** Ready for a pick up and R. Georgett will ask J. Silverthorn.

**Clean Community/Tonnage:** R. Georgett said there will be a \$100 mini grant paid for Amwell Lake Clean Up. She continued that the township will send out a tax mailing and we have included a clean community flier the past few years. This is a great way for us to get our messages out and great for the township because clean communities then pays for half the cost of postage. L. Rommel said he'll double check but the flier is probably due in May. Copies of the flier were handed to those attending in person. R. Georgett said it is an editable pdf and she will send it to everyone. L. Rommel said he'll review and draft an update.

R. Georgett asked what everyone would like to be included. K. Chichon said people tend not to know about the corks, bottle caps and candy wrappers and she does a lot of outreach in her work, and there is technology available called Canva that is available free to non-profits, municipalities and is super easy to use. She said it should have less words/text and more key messages & images. Goodling said she has questions about our mission and that would be important in what we include. K. Chichon asked what we want to accomplish with this flier.

R. Georgett said educate people and influence behaviors so they know what is collected, and about how to be better recyclers, reuse more items, why recycling contamination is such a problem, etc. B. Gooding suggested that we each identify a few items that could be included & send them to L. Rommel, who can then prioritize them to draft a flier. Items like when Depot is held, what is collected, Grit Yard hours, and other messages to attract more people to come to Depot. L. Rommel said yes that's good – send him two or three items. K. Chichon said we also need to make sure that information on the website & in recycle coach are right. She was looking at other municipalities, Princeton, websites that are very user friendly to find information with a bitling link. L. Rommel said we could also load the flier onto the website in addition to the printed version that will be mailed out. K. Chichon said she'll send the good items from Princeton's website to Leo. It was agreed that Princeton and Hopewell both have excellent programs and material.

K. Chichon asked if partnering with other towns for TREX was still being discussed. R. Georgett said it's being discussed at the County meetings and the first step is to find a location for the compactor. K. Chichon said Jama Kadri is an East Amwell resident and his family owns Lima Farms. She knows a lot of farmers in town and they use a lot of plastic for hay bales. She was speaking with Jama about a possible TREX compactor and he's really excited about the idea. Kate said it's great to look at the County for this but in our own town and agro plastic and baling twine are huge opportunities for recycling and reducing plastic waste. She will keep the conversation going with him. R. Georgett said that if the compactor idea gets traction at the County level, she'll bring Kate and Jama into the conversation. K. Chichon said that Cornell has a lot of great information about this topic and agro plastic which she will look into. Kate said that Jama was really excited about recycling with an agro focus. B. Gooding said she gets a little confused with our mission & focus between East Amwell and other townships. She was a member of the Hopewell Green Team and will follow up with Rosemary on this.

**Township Committee:** T. Ramsey was not present to report.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS –**

**Spring Clean Up Update:** S. Kadlec said she asked Mike Dendis to bring his pick up truck where they can collect clothing and to bring to the school. It looks like there are enough volunteers including Linda from the township, Jason Bloom, Mike Denis, DPW team, two Republic guys for each truck and Tara Ramsey.

**Recycling Committee Rep at Green Fest 4/23/23 and Color Run 5/6/23:** There was some discussion regarding what the recycling committee person would do, and R. Georgett said we are giving them a bunch of great swag. Also a Hunterdon County Rep for Clean Community will be there, and some folks will be attending so it's OK. Because it is the day after Spring Clean Up, our members are really busy and so we are providing other resources instead. No one was available for Color Run and R. Georgett will follow up with Erica Johanson, S. Kadlec suggested providing her with give away promotions that would work. It was agreed that having an activity wasn't as important because there is so much other activity that day.

**Committee Membership:** R. Georgett said Erica Johanson has submitted her application to rejoin, and conversation will continue with Beatrice. R. Georgett asked if Judi DiMao was at the Depot and Sue said she was there. Judi may be someone interested in joining the committee, and we can see if things work out with Dennis and Dawn. It's great to have people who know what we do & have helped at the Depot joining the committee.

**VIP and website newflash (Education/Communication topics):** Leo said we are all set for May and June articles.

Month	Topic	Committee Resource
February 2023	Alternatives to product in plastic	Sue K.
March 2023	Article on using bale string (provided by resident at the Depot), Items needing sponsor/donors (battery boxes, zero waste single stream box, etc.) TREX – looking for volunteers to receive a bench.	Leo has these covered. No help needed.
April 2023	Reminder how to prep batteries to put into Depot battery box.	
May 2023	Five ways to start seeds using recycled containers.	
June 2023	10 ways to keep plastic out of the ocean	

**Recycle Coach Updates or Corrections:** R. Georgett said this information needs to be reviewed and updated, and in the past we had committee members go into the app to check on a couple of items each months. Then they would report back at the meeting anything that needs to be corrected/changed/updated. She asked if each member could download the app onto their device, enter an item... like pens!!.... and bring feedback to the next meeting. K. Chichon asked if she can help with the website updates, and that for what we do now and also if we expand into other areas discussed we will need a robust website.

**Foam Palace:** No update, standing item.

**Clawson Park Water Stations:** R. Georgett said T. Ramsey sent an email to the Parks & Recreation Lead and they haven't responded yet. There is \$1500 in clean community funds allocated for this, and so we'll keep this as a standing item.

**NEW BUSINESS – none**

**OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE –** Beatrice mentioned the Hopewell Green Team, and Kate clarified that the farms she was talking about earlier are located in East Amwell. Beatrice said they had the same issues as we do, and it's frustrating that everyone is trying to do thing locally when there are many reasons to work together. She wants to continue to explore this, and Hopewell is very good at getting people involved but lacked resources of a township. So there could be a good opportunity to work together on the same needs. For example combining regarding collection of Styrofoam and transportation to a collection facility.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion was made by S. Kadlec which was seconded by L. Rommel and carried with no objections or abstentions to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.**

---

Rosemary Georgett, Recycling Coordinator