

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
 RECYCLING COMMITTEE MINUTES - DRAFT
 REGULAR MEETING Via Zoom
 April 13, 2020 - TUESDAY, 7:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER AND STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Recycling Committee was called to order at 7:30 PM on April 13, 2020 as a virtual meeting held through Zoom by W. Harrison.

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, this is a regularly scheduled meeting pursuant to the Annual Meeting Notice as published in the December 20, 2019 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat, and a revised notice with the location change to a virtual Zoom meeting published on April 2, 2020 in the Hunterdon County Democrat. A copy of the agenda was forwarded to the Hunterdon County Democrat, placed on the Township Website, and posted on the Township Bulletin Board.

2020 ATTENDANCE (X- present; E – excused; A – absent)

Recycling Committee Member	1/14/2020	2/11/2020	3/10/2020	4/13/2020	5/12/2020	6/09/2020	7/7/2020	8/11/2020	9/08/2020	10/06/2020	11/10/2020	12/08/2020
Will Harrison	X	X	X	X								
Alison Castellano	X	X	X	X								
Susan Kadlec	X	X	X	X								
Erica Johanson	-	-	E	X								
Tom Rue	X	X	X	A								
Mark Gunn	X	X	X	E								
Chantal Napoleon	X	E	X	X								
Tim Matthews	A	E	E	A								

Others present: Coordinator, Rosemary Georgett

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – W. Harrison recognized Mike Mills in attendance to discuss Municipal Composting. **A motion was made to open to the public present by A. Castellano that was seconded by E. Johanson that was carried with no objections or abstentions.** Mike Mills introduced himself as a member of the Ag Advisory committee and said that he had contacted (Mayor) Rick Wolfe in January asking if there was any composting in town for yard waste. He continued that most people in the township have yards and manage their own waste, so he is looking more at schools and other producers of organic waste and wanted to discuss with this committee before moving forward. A. Castellano said the school does it on a small scale with Sharon Ernst as the person who does this as part of environmental club. W. Harrison said he is not convinced there is a need in East Amwell but he’s open. A. Castellano said the school has 4 or 5 bins in the gardens outside of the school, and all composting material from the school goes there.

R. Georgett said that this had come up when the Recycling Committee had discussed doing something about composting when establishing goals for 2020, and that maybe there was an opportunity to do something in the Township. She continued that when the committee learned that he was thinking about composting as well, it made sense to invite him to this meeting to discuss. M. Mills said that in New Brunswick, which is a more urban setting, residents were able to bring composting to a community garden and maintaining a small area is not that much of an endeavor. He continued that the space would need to be protected and there is the pest issue but in New Brunswick they didn’t have a fenced area using pallet-built bins instead. M. Mills said they would add new pallets as needed with 15 at the end, which they would cycle through. He continued that they use

worms to further compost & produce fertilizer adding utility. M. Mills said residents in town and those with affiliations to the community garden could bring material as well and that Rutgers has established a club that is taking care of it now. He continued that materials are now coming from cafes on campus & maybe a dining hall as well.

W. Harrison said we need to establish whether or not there is a need a program like this. He continued that composting can be labor intensive and M. Mills said there are way to do layering and incorporate some bacteria that make it less intensive and explained that they had established a system where it was layered with wood chips, didn't turn it, and allowed a slow natural process which is easily managed when you have control over what goes in. He continued that this way it takes time to actively control it but is not labor intensive. R. Georgett asked if it made sense to have a pilot as M. Mills had described before making it bigger by opening it up to residents. She continued we could then check with residents to see what the interest is. A. Castellano asked what would be involved and who would manage it. M. Mills said if there was a community garden that would be the ideal place. There was further discussion regarding whether there was an interest and need in the community.

C. Napoleon said she would be personally interested and asked A. Castellano if we could do a poll on the website, through Facebook, at the Depot, etc. A. Castellano said we could definitely do a survey and clarified that this could be easily done reaching hundreds of people just through the Facebook. M. Mills said that he had a survey from New Brunswick that could be used as a starting point and will email to the Committee. A. Castellano said she and R. Georgett could use this to put together some questions and run a survey. Committee members agreed to conducting a survey. W. Harrison thanked Mike Mills for his time and said he was welcome to stay on the call. **A. Castellano made a motion that was seconded by E. Johanson to close to the public that was carried with no objections or abstentions.**

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES - The minutes from the March 10, 2020 meeting were put forward and **R. Georgett made a motion that was seconded by A. Castellano to accept the minutes with minor edits that was carried with no objections and E. Johanson abstained.**

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – None

REPORTS –

Depot Reports: April 2020 – A. Castellano said it was a good day with around 60 cars, and people wore gloves, masks, social distanced. She continued that most people had read the memo about new requirements and there was only one person who got out of the car, was rude about the social distancing. A. Castellano explained how the social distancing was managed, and that all TREX and Terra Cycle was dropped by the shed, dropped off and loaded after. She said VIPs were left on a chair to be taken. There was discussion regarding managing the TREX and uncertainty on whether the stores are still taking it which will impact whether we can continue. There was further discussion about running Depot during COVID-19, and it was agreed that the same team that managed in April would continue for the time being.

DEPOT LEAD ASSIGNMENTS

January 4, 2020	W. Harrison	Reported at January 14 meeting
February 1, 2020	T. Rue	Reported at February 11 meeting
March 7, 2020	M. Gunn	Reported at March 10 meeting
April 4, 2020	S. Kadlec	Reported at April 13, meeting
May 2, 2020	A Castellano	
June 6, 2020	T. Rue	

July 4, 2020	W. Harrison	
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Township Committee Update: T. Matthews was not present to report.

Styrofoam Recycling: A. Castellano said there is a good amount of Styrofoam in the shed now but it will be left until safe to handle.

TREX Recycling: No additional updates.

OLD BUSINESS -

Recycling Education/Communication: R. Georgett said there is nothing new to report, the flier is still in process.

Recycle Coach (RC): No comments

Road Side Clean Up April 18 update: C. Napoleon said 17 people/families have signed up, and masks as well as social distancing will be done at the Municipal Building where A. Castellano will monitor to ensure safety. A. Castellano said she will run a newflash reminder with the safety updates and C. Napoleon will resend via email. R. Georgett said she will order another 12 grabbers with clean community funds and then there will be more than enough this year and going forward.

Spring Clean-Up update: W. Harrison said he and A. Castellano have been communicating via email and the new date is Saturday June 13th. A. Castellano said she has updated this with Republic as well and there is a County event date that date as well, so it's a good coordination. She continued that Parks and Recreation are planning a Community Yard sale the weekend before, so people can bring items they have not sold.

Recycling Table at Color Run: A. Castellano said a final decision hasn't been made but it will most likely be cancelled.

INVOICES: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Grit Yard Extended Hours: A. Castellano said we extended hours in January and had discussed opening the Grit Yard the first and third Saturday during Spring for use during yard clean up. She continued that during Depot they saw many trucks and cars piled high with brush going to the Grit Yard, so there is a need. It was agreed that the Grit Yard would be opened the First and Third Saturdays for April and May. R. Georgett asked if the Grit Yard should be opened in the Fall as well and W. Harrison said probably not since leaves aren't accepted. E. Johanson said she'll take the leaves!!

OPEN TO PUBLIC – Seeing no members of the public present, A. Castellano made a motion seconded by C. Napoleon to close to the public that was carried unanimously with no objection or abstention.

OPEN TO COMMITTEE – No comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by A. Castellano which was seconded by E. Johanson and carried unanimously with no objections or abstentions to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

Rosemary Georgett, Recycling Coordinator