

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
RECYCLING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
May 2, 2023 - TUESDAY, 7:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER AND STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The regular meeting of the Recycling Committee was called to order at 7:30 PM on May 2, 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	X							
Susan Kadlec	X	X	X	X	X							
Tara Ramsey Township Committee (non voting)	X	A	*	A	A							
Leo Rommel	X	*	X	X	X							
Environmental Commission Liaison – Erica Johanson	na	Na	na	na	*							
Member (2+) Vacant	na	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.

A warm welcome was extended to Erica Johanson on rejoining the Recycling Committee as both a voting member and Environmental Commission Liaison.

AGENDA REVIEW – X. New Business - Establishing a Mission for the committee per suggestion by Beatrice Gooding.

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 - S. Kadlec made a motion to approve the March 14, 2023 minutes, L. Rommel seconded and all voted in favor with E. Johanson abstaining. L. Rommel made a motion to approve the April 4, 2023 minutes, S. Kadlec seconded and all voted in favor with E. Johanson abstaining.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS – None. R. Georgett said items were purchased for the Green Fest and Color Run events through the Clean Communities Grant Fund. The items were give away promotions such as reusable Swedish towels to replace paper towels, and environmentally friendly/low to no plastic household cleaning items from Grove Collaborative. E. Johanson suggested that in the

future we purchase give away items from the local sustainability store. She will forward the information about the store.

REPORTS -

Quarterly Report Updates:

Depot Reports – NA Depot will be held next Saturday May 6th.

Terra Cycle: R. Georgett said K. Chichon put together great fliers for both Terra Cycle and Depot Day, and showed them on the screen. E. Johanson said she already picked up copies, and L. Rommel said he will use them for making the clean community flier. K. Chichon said the Depot Day flier was not on the website yet, and R. Georgett said she would follow up. Both fliers will be enlarged and put into a stand on the table as educational information at the Color Run. The committee agreed to stop printing off paper fliers for these events because it goes against what we are trying to accomplish, and people can take a picture of the fliers with their phone. L. Rommel said hand outs would be good for educating our Depot regulars, the committee agreed and R. Georgett said she will print 20 before Saturday. K. Chichon said Terra Cycle changes and once it's on the website, we could do a bitly link named something like EA Recycle. She explained that this would enable people to load it on their phone and go straight to this place on the website easily. Also, at that point we could print fliers with the bitly link with an easy to remember name like "go green", so you don't have to remember a website. K. Chichon said the website is so difficult to navigate, it's hard to find what you're looking for. She hopes that Linda, the Municipal Clerk, will complete website training and learn how to do this.

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

DATE	LEAD
June 3, 2023	L. Rommel
June 17, 2023 (Grit Yard)	L. Rommel
July 1, 2023	S. Kadlec
July 15, 2023 (Grit Yard)	S. Kadlec
August 5, 2023	
August 19, 2023 (Grit Yard)	
September 2, 2023	
September 16, 2023 (Grit Yard)	

Volunteers for the next depot: Leo will be lead for May but it's the same day as the School's Color Run event. Kate needs to be at both Depot and Color Run and will be back and forth. S. Kadlec, R. Georgett, and B. Gooding will also be there to help. Dennis and Dawn H. from 11th Hour Rescue will be there for TREX. S. Kadlec said Rick W., Mike P. and Ian, high school student, will probably come as well.

TREX: R. Georgett said May 1st was the conclusion of the 2nd bench for 11th Hour Rescue and so collections going forward will not go to a project group. She said we can continue to collect plastic, report it to TREX, and figure out how to get it to Stop and Shop. S. Kadlec said keeping plastic out of landfills is the most important thing, and Dennis and Dawn will probably continue to bring it to Stop and Shop for the summer. E. Johanson said we should advertise for a new

group at the Color Run and it was agreed. She also said there is a false rumor that the benches are not sturdy, and we should debunk this when possible. S. Kadlec said it'll be a different message to groups with only 2 benches available a year, versus collecting 500 lbs. B. Gooding suggested we do something to get interest from groups and then just explain it to them. There was further discussion about how to message this and L. Rommel will draft a flier.

Styrofoam: Ready for a pick up and R. Georgett will ask J. Silverthorn again. S. Kadlec said we are around ¼ of the foam palace filled but still don't know how much equals a truckload for DPW. R. Georgett said DPW is busy, knows the pick up needs to happen, and they'll get it done. B. Gooding said if this is a problem we could suggest coordinating with another town like Hopewell alternating delivery responsibility. It was agreed the committee would make this suggestion if it was an ongoing problem.

Clean Community/Tonnage: R. Georgett said the Tonnage Report was filed with the State of NJ, and the township should be in good shape to get the grant next year. She continued that the grant funds are used toward dumpster rentals and some grit yard needs. R. Georgett said that the Tonnage report accounts for material collected in/hailed from the township, and then a Tonnage grant is given to the township by the state for this work/activity within the township. R. Georgett explained that Clean Community grant is for activities specifically associated with litter and graffiti – clean up, abatement, education, enforcement, etc. These activities are more closely aligned with Green Team/Environmental Commission than Recycling and the Admin for Green Team has been approved for training to be Clean Community certified. If that happens, oversight of this may be moved to them.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

Spring Clean Report: S. Kadlec said Spring Clean Up went well but there weren't many cards, only around 41. \$1890. Was collected. There were 3 trucks from Republic, DPW staff, two township committee members (Mike D. and Dante D.), Linda from the office, and Erica J. S. Kadlec said Goodwill came and were fine, and two trucks of clothing were collected for the School. S. Kadlec said it was so light, much less than prior years even before hurricane Ida, and was it posted to the website. R. Georgett said there was a news flash, fliers handed out, etc.

Color Run 5/6/23: E. Johanson said they will provide a table and chair. She will come pick up all materials on Friday from R. Georgett. R. Georgett said the material will be fliers for Terra Cycle, Depot Day, TREX volunteers needed, and a Recycle Coach App raffle – namely, anyone who downloads the app can enter to raffle to win the basket of goods from Grove Collaborative. K. Chichon said her son broke his arm and can't run, so he will help Erica.

Tax Mailing Clean Community Flier: L. Rommel said the flier includes material from Kate's fliers plus a few tidbits from last year's fliers. He made it more colorful, easy to use, and less wordy. K. Chichon said it is awesome and all agreed! L. Rommel said he added Grit Yard information and will verify the hours. He asked everyone to review for typos, errors, etc and provide feedback before final submission to Pam Dymek in the office. E. Johanson said the font is excellent and should become our standard for communications. L. Rommel said it was suggested by his design team colleagues and he'll find out what it is.

Committee Membership Recruitment: R. Georgett said she will talk with Dennis and Dawn on Saturday about possible membership. Suggest that they talk with committee members about what they do, etc. L. Rommel said he will also do a condensed version of messaging for new members. E. Johanson said there used to be a volunteers list, and they might be possible future members. R. Georgett

said the list is in our google drive and should be used when looking for Depot or other event help. Everyone was encouraged to review the list and reach out to anyone they know, to see if they're interested.

VIP and website newsflash (Education/Communication topics): Leo said we are all set for July – Composting, September – Terra Cycle, August – TBD. R. Georgett said the State of NJ is about to enact legislation on food waste and so composting will be a timely topic. She said two local sources are The Compost Man in Lambertville, and Green Bucket a national organization that may not be operating in Hunterdon County yet. K. Chichon said the amount of food waste in the School cafeteria is terrible, a lot of good food is thrown out every day, and so maybe legislation will help. There was discussion regarding having topic related to the season, which is why L. Rommel placed Terra Cycle in September when school begin. K. Chichon said she will check with Sharon Ernst because she wrote an article on Terra Cycle already. L. Rommel said he will coordinate with Sharon, and our article will be several months after hers so it's a reinforcement of the message. The articles can go in VIP, on the website and East Amwell Bulletin Board Facebook page.

**E. Johanson said an article to find residents willing to purchase collection boxes for the Depot “buy a box”. R. Georgett said the committee should decide what “extra items” we want to take on collecting at the Depot. This list of things we could use and want to collect could be content for this article. That way residents won't get a “one off” box to collect and what we take becomes confusing. K. Chichon said this would be great around the holidays when people are looking to give back, to do gifting.

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	
July 2023	Composting	
August 2023	TBD	
September 2023	Terra Cycle Update plus other Depot Day items (corks, CDs, etc)	
October 2023	TBD	
November 2023	Maybe “buy a box” for holiday giving**	
December 2023	TBD	

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. R. Georgett provided a review of this item for the committee saying that it was determined that the existing structure is quite old, becoming unsafe as demonstrated by the recent broken step during a Depot, and is to be replaced with something better suited for its purpose. The new structure would be more like a pole barn with garage doors that will streamline collection of Styrofoam, Terra Cycle items, TREX, zero waste boxes, etc. Because most of the items collected/stored there, funds equal to 75 to 80% of the total cost will be covered by money reserved in the Clean Community Grant for several years, and the balance is to be paid by the Township. With the escalating cost of construction materials during COVID-19, the decision was made to wait until costs normalized to get the new shed. S. Kadlec asked if there was a time limit on the approval and R. Georgett said no. We are allowed to reserve 25% of the Clean Community Grant funds each year towards the future purchase of covered “equipment”, and the new shed qualifies. K. Chichon asked how unstable the Foam Palace is and how urgent is the replacement. R. Georgett said it’s not dangerous where someone could put a foot through the floor or walls will fall down, more the broken step issues so there is some time.

Clawson Park Water Stations: R. Georgett said this is similar situation to the new Shed, and she sent confirmation to Parks and Recreation that \$1500 in clean community funds are allocated for this purchase. The grant can be used because single use plastic bottles are a major source of trash, and installing a station to refill water bottles reduces the need for single use bottles. That is why we keep it as a standing item.

NEW BUSINESS – Discussion of a Mission Statement is tabled to the next meeting.

OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE – none

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by S. Kadlec which was seconded by L. Rommel and carried with no objections or abstentions to adjourn at 9:03 p.m.

Rosemary Georgett, Recycling Coordinator