

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
RECYCLING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
June 14, 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 7:31 PM on June 14, 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	7/10/2023 (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	X						
Beatrice Gooding	na	na	na	na	na	X						
Susan Kadlec	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Tara Ramsey Township Committee (non voting)	X	A	*	A	A	*						
Leo Rommel	X	*	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 rescheduled regular meeting of the Recycling Committee pursuant to the Notice published in the June 8, 2023 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 Beatrice Gooding on rejoining the Recycling Committee.

AGENDA REVIEW – Erica Johanson volunteered to purchase a zero waste box – add under New Business. Rosemary Georgett said she will provide a SWAC update. Sue Kadlec suggested we discuss whether there should be a Spring clean up every year or every other year – add under Township Committee update.

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 May 2, 2023 minutes, B. Gooding seconded and all voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS – None.

REPORTS -

Quarterly Report Updates:

Depot Reports – Leo reported the details contained in the written report for May 6th and June 3rd Depots as he lead them both. Reported have been loaded into the google drive. L. Rommel said that the way dumpsters were arranged worked perfectly for the June 3rd Depot and should become the standard. The committee agreed. He continued that we need more large plastic bags for Styrofoam and the battery box is nearly full. E. Johanson said she will purchase a battery box rather than zero waste box. She continued by recommending that we try to get local business to sponsor a box, and L. Rommel said he'll do an article to ask residents to donate a battery box for the August VIP.

Terra Cycle: K. Chicon said she took care of this but wasn't able to connect with Sharon Ernst. She will also connect with Ms. Ernst about how to handle Terra Cycle over the summer.

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

DATE	LEAD
June 3, 2023	L. Rommel
June 17, 2023 (Grit Yard)	L. Rommel open/S Kadlec close
July 1, 2023	S. Kadlec
July 15, 2023 (Grit Yard)	Township Committee
August 5, 2023	E. Johanson (K. Chichon asst)
August 19, 2023 (Grit Yard)	Township committee
September 2, 2023	L. Rommel
September 16, 2023 (Grit Yard)	L. Rommel

E. Johanson said she needs someone to help unlock the Grit Yard on August 5th, and either Mike Petrus will be asked to help or K. Chichon will help.

Volunteers for the next depot: Leo, Kate, Erica, Beatrice, Rosemary and we are expecting Dennis & Dawn for TREX plus Rick Wolfe, Mike Petrus and Jason Bloom.

TREX: R. Georgett said the 11th Hour Rescue bench has been ordered. We have technically started a new bench but don't have a volunteer group. S. Kadlec said Stop & Shop will no longer accept TREX in black bags. B. Gooding said this is so it's not mistaken for trash and can then easily see it is recycling.

Styrofoam: L. Rommel said it was taken away and is around 20% full after the June Depot. R. Georgett said Styrofoam filled to the first door is pretty much a full load for DPW.

Clean Community/Tonnage: R. Georgett said no updates other than Clean Community Report will be filed this month. She said if anyone ever has questions about these reports or grants, please let her know.

R. Georgett said she needs to fill in the report information for a couple of months, specifically April. L. Rommel suggested updating the TREX section to align with the new bench program. S. Kadlec asked if we have a larger sign for what's accepted for Terra Cycle, and R. Georgett said she will get the 11 X 17 print outs used for the Color Run.

K. Chichon said the new Terra Cycle flier still hasn't been posted and the Depot list link is dead. R. Georgett said she will take care of both items.

Township Committee: T. Ramsey said the Township Committee wants the Grit Yard open for the posted hours of 8 am to 2 pm, and they are glad the recycling committee will open the Grit Yard on Depot days. The Township Committee will take responsibility for closing the Grit Yard at 2 pm on Depot days. The Township Committee will also take care of both opening and closing the Grit Yard on the third Saturday because the recycling committee doesn't have capacity to do it on an extended basis. Tara said that there is no date for when the third Saturday will be covered and can the recycling committee continue until Jenna Bloom, Mayor, and Jason Silverthorn, DPW Lead develop a plan for how this will be handled.

S. Kadlec said there will need to be coordination between Depot lead who opens it and who will be closing it, to ensure it isn't advertently left open. L. Rommel said for June 17 he will open and S. Kadlec will close. We need coverage for August 15th Grit Yard open and Tara will check whether Township Committee plan will be in place by August.

S. Kadlec said that Spring Clean was not as well attended as prior years, and last year was an anomaly because there was still hurricane clean up. She asked if the Township Committee wants to continue to run it and have this expense every year, R. Georgett said it has cost approximately \$2,000 in prior years. Even with the increased costs, it has never been a break-even event. R. Georgett said she will get the reports from prior years, and T. Ramsey will review the budget to see what has been allocated. She said that she will put it on the agenda for discussion at the July Township Committee meeting, and invited members of the committee to attend the meeting. B. Gooding suggested that if can also educate residents on where to bring things like clothing to be donated, whether or not Spring Cleanup is held.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

Color Run Recycling/Clean Community promotion: R. Georgett share the raffle winners to name the DeLitter Bug logo, and said she could type a list of the names put into the raffle. Then committee members could vote on their top 3 choices via email, and the Committee would make a selection from the final choices at the July meeting. E. Johanson gave a shout out to K. Chichon for typing up instructions for the Color Run that can be used for future events. L. Rommel said he can do an article on the raffle, winners and name chosen for DeLitter Bug in the August or September.

Tax Mailing Clean Community Flier: R. Georgett thanked L. Rommel for preparing an excellent flier, and everyone weighed in that it was excellent. It is good to go with extended Grit Yard hours and Township Committee helping cover it. R. Georgett asked if the Committee could be advised when changes are made in the future, it can help avoid confusion going forward.

Our Mission Statement: B. Gooding said although she understood what the Committee is doing but not where we are going. The Grit Yard is an example of something we do but it's not clear why. She said a mission statement can provide guidance and direction of what we do, such as: what we would collect at the Depot. She said it would also be good for recruitment of additional members, do we just need more hands or is it more. B. Gooding said it would also be helpful to clarify and distinguish Recycling Committee from Environmental Commission. S. Kadlec said her thought was to keep as much as possible out of the waste stream, and asked if B. Gooding had a suggestion. B. Gooding will put together a few sentences for the committee to review and provide input. K. Chichon agreed it would be helpful to have a mission and T. Ramsey said she agrees and was similarly confused with what the committee did when she first joined. She also agreed that it would helpful to define what we want to be and how we want to serve, including what we do and don't do as well. R. Georgett said she

would like the committee to think about if we want to incorporate Reduce, Reuse, Recycle into our mission. B. Gooding said the huge stack of feed bags collected could be posted on Facebook for anyone to come pick up, as an example of reuse. It was agreed this would be easy to do. L. Rommel said he'll send a few sentences on this and we can review at the July meeting and create a brief, clear statement. R. Georgett confirmed that we have goals but not a mission statement in the past.

Committee Membership Recruitment: All members will continue to think about who may be interested and extend an invitation to them.

VIP and website newsflash (Education/Communication topics): S. Kadlec suggested adding a sentence to an article inviting people to post questions about what they want to recycle/reuse, and solicit suggestions. E. Johanson said we should have a presence on twitter, and u-tube and other social media places to educate. K. Chichon said there is also a Lambertville site where people post items to be given away, and it could be a good place for egg cartons too. She will look up the site information and share it because both items to be given away and items needed can be posted.

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, DeLitter Bug,	
August 2023	List of items residents could donate for Depot – battery box, etc.	
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: Tabled to the next meeting.

Foam Palace: No update, standing item. R. Georgett asked T. Ramsey to follow up with the Township Committee and explained that it has been on hold because the cost of construction materials went through the roof during COVID-19. There are funds in the Clean Community Grant fund to cover 80 to 85% of the cost. T. Ramsey said this would be good to discuss toward year end when we can see if there are unused funds and/or it could be incorporated into the 2024 budget. She continued that it is something that needs to be done but we have a lean budget, so that needs to be considered. R. Georgett said that the old shed would probably be taken down but that would be a DPW decision. E. Johanson said there was discussion also about trying to get local people who use to Depot to contribute and/or volunteer their time to help. T. Ramsey said good and idea, she will bring this forward as well. B.

Gooding said it would be good to clarify what we want to use the new structure for, and provide input for the design. This could also link to our mission.

Clawson Park Water Stations: No update.

NEW BUSINESS –

Hunterdon County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) - R. Georgett said the Hunterdon County SWAC is still trying to figure how/if we can work with TREX through a County program. There have been many challenges including the County does not have a place to put a bailer, and TREX is not accepting agricultural plastic due to contamination concerns. R. Georgett said she is trying to keep K. Chichon in the loop so Jamal can be informed. K. Chichon said she was reading that Cornell in NY is being very proactive regarding Agricultural plastic, and do a lot of pesticides as well. She will follow up to see if anything Cornell is doing can be adopted here in NJ.

R. Georgett said SWAC will also be putting together a survey about Composting, and is researching options for establishing something in Hunterdon. She said that Hunterdon Land Trust has a program for setting up totes where people can drop off food waste for composting. R. Georgett said that SWAC members will go visit this facility, called Neighborhood Compost.com, in the Fall. She will keep the committee informed about anything initiated at the County level to consider. E. Johanson said she uses the Compost Man for curbside composting and we could promote that. R. Georgett said we did some promotion on this last year, and L. Rommel said he'll cover in the article. R. Georgett thanked E. Johanson and L. Rommel for keeping the connections between Environmental Commission and Recycling.

Purdue Global – R. Georgett said she received an email from them with a list of 45 sustainability resources you should know, and wants to know if the committee supports this. She will forward the email, and everyone should reply S. Kadlec said we should also post the Recycling video that was circulated.

OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE – R. Georgett said there were copies of the NJ Waste Wise newsletter for those in the room and she would forward the email to everyone.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by S. Kadlec which was seconded by L. Rommel and carried with no objections or abstentions to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

Rosemary Georgett, Recycling Coordinator