

**MINUTES  
EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP  
Environmental Commission Business Meeting  
February 25, 2019  
7:30 P.M**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE:**

The February 25, 2019 Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:35 p.m. Secretary, G. Brewi announced that this business meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. This is a Business Meeting of the East Amwell Environmental Commission, as published in the Hunterdon County Democrat on February 14, 2018. A copy of tonight’s agenda was filed with the Township Clerk and the Township Committee, forwarded to the Hunterdon County Democrat, distributed to the various East Amwell Township Committees and Boards, and was posted on the Township Bulletin Board.

**ROLL CALL:**

**ATTENDANCE 2019:**

Environmental Commission Member	1/28/19	2/25/19	3/25/19	4/22/19	5/20/19	6/24/19	7/22/19	8/26/19	9/23/19	10/28/19	11/25/19	12/16/19
Joe Angelone	X											
James Edwards												
Frances Gavigan	X	Via Phone										
Tom Rue	X	X										
Patsy Wang-Iverson	X	X										
Lisa Davis	x	X										
Kevin Ostrander (alt. I)	X											

*Others present: Gail Brewi, Andrea Bonette, Kathy Wolfe  
Township Committee Liaison: None Present*

**PRESENTATION OF MINUTES:** February 25, 2019 Business Meeting  
Minutes of February 25, 2019: Motion to carry approval of the draft minutes was made by L. Davis and seconded by P. Wang-Iverson due to an insufficient number of eligible voting members in attendance for approval of the minutes from this meeting. There were none opposed however, T. Rue requested to provide edits for addition to the draft minutes prior to the next meeting.

**BILLS OF THE EVENING**

Secretary G. Brewi stated there were no bills for approval.

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**LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS**

Secretary G. Brewi noted the following additions; Memo to Committee Members, dated 1-11-19 referencing volunteer responsibilities, and Township Committee Liaisons list adopted 1-10-19.

**REORGANIZATION DISCUSSION:**

Member F. Gavigan updated the commission that forthcoming changes may trigger revisions to the Planning Board process and therefore the commission may want to consider carrying the establishment of meeting dates for 2019. Secretary, G. Brewi proposed that the commission approve the 2019 regular business meeting dates based on the prior year schedule allowing the business meetings to be noticed and suggested that meeting dates could be adjusted if necessary, in the future.

Motion to set regular business meeting dates to be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. with exception of the months of May and December whereas, the regular business meetings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 7:30 p.m. was made by T. Rue and seconded by L. Davis. There were none opposed. None abstained. Regular business meeting dates for 2019 were unanimously approved.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Co-Chair, L. Davis asked for a motion to open to the public. Motion was made by F. Gavigan and seconded by T. Rue.

Resident, Andrea Bonette suggested based on her prior experiences in the municipality that voting to open to the public may not be required and the commission may be required to only vote to close to the public. Co-Chair, L. Davis acknowledged the suggestion.

Motion to close to the public was made by P. Wang-Iverson and seconded by T. Rue.

**REPORTS:**

Financial Report

Secretary G. Brewi provided update for clarification. The Township Committee has not approved the \$4,580 operating budget requested by the commission but, left the requested operating budget in the draft budget. Since determination has been made for the Environmental Commission to remain a freestanding committee the Township Committee expects to finalize the appropriate budget for Environmental Commission at the March Township Committee meeting.

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**Committee Liaison Reports:** Members will continue to carry appointments of any new liaisons until full membership is obtained and will seek to appoint a liaison for the Board of Health this year.

AG Advisory - (F. Gavigan) No Report Provided.

Planning Board (F. Gavigan)

Liaison F. Gavigan updated. The Planning Board has a sub-group looking at the current Township ordinances and an effort will be made for clarifications and simplifying to allow for better compliance and a clearer application processes.

Member P. Wang-Iverson asked if there were Planning Board initiatives or township ordinances pertaining to new residential construction supporting environmentally sound decisions or environmentally driven restrictions. F. Gavigan was not aware of any such initiatives at the township level and suggested such direction may be able to be investigated and pursued at the State level.

Township Committee (R. Wolf)

Secretary G. Brewi provided update. Mayor, Rick Wolf and Deputy Mayor, T. Matthews held a staff meeting at which they announced the retirement of the Municipal Clerk, Terri Stahl. She will be leaving April 1<sup>st</sup>. All interested applicants were encouraged to apply for the Clerk position. The meeting was opened to all employees for discussion on any township issues, concerns, or suggestions.

Recycling Committee (T. Rue)

Liaison T. Rue updated that the meeting was rescheduled due to snow. The next meeting will be held February 27th. P. Wang-Iverson updated that there is a combination code on the trailer for better access.

Recreation Committee (TBD – J. Edwards to advise availability)

No report as there is currently no liaison.

Farmland/Open Space Preservation Committee (T. Rue)

Liaison T. Rue updated. Farm preservation was discussed by guest speakers. Thompson property was discussed along with other possible properties which could be supported for preservation.

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**Sub-Committee Reports:**

Public Outreach Committee (L. Davis, P. Wang-Iverson, J. Edwards)

Member, P. Wang-Iverson updated. Tree Seedlings giveaways will be planned to take place at Hunterdon County Community Day, Color Run on May 4<sup>th</sup> at the monthly drop off depot and the Plant Swap on May 18<sup>th</sup>. A total of 800 seedlings will be provided. Volunteers will be needed.

Co-Chair L. Davis updated that she obtained training on the new township web site with Alison Castellano. A draft of the proposed website should be ready for commission members to view for the next meeting. All commission members will be able to view and make suggestions by logging into the draft web site page. Members will be provided access directly from Civic Plus if they haven't already signed in. Member F. Gavigan will touch base with A. Castellano to discuss providing resources for reference on the township website.

Site Review Committee (J. Angelone, P. Wang-Iverson & F. Gavigan)

Member F. Gavigan updated re: application for an addition at 23 Mountain Road, B 40.02 L 17 and B 40.03 L 3 for a variance for a side yard setback. Property is a grandfathered lot built in the 90's with constraints. Wetlands determination was requested.

Secretary, G. Brewi reminded members that the application for Block 35 Lot 2 on Wertsville Road for an agricultural subdivision is available for review in the Commissions mailbox.

Easements Committee (J. Angelone, T. Rue & P. Wang-Iverson)

No report provided.

Co-Chair L. Davis spoke about a conservation grant opportunity for easement inventories available through ANJEC. Application is due 4/15. Commission agreed to the submission of an application being made. Member L. Davis volunteered to write the grant however, needs help from other members to obtain the back ground which motivates the grant request. Proposed cost involved is clerical.

NRI/ERI (L. Davis, F. Gavigan)

Co-Chair L. Davis updated. A brief presentation to the Township Committee was provided on 2/14 prior to the township committee meeting expressing the importance of an ERI for planning in the town. A request was made by Mayor, Wolf for answers to Township Committee questions surrounding the funding of \$500 in the budget for the ERI project. Co-Chair L. Davis has provided. A copy of the EA Township ERI from 1976 with an update from 1992 has been located. The update consisted of new information regarding threatened and endangered wildlife populations in the township.

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Member F. Gavigan provided an overview regarding the various pieces of the existing ERI which can be used and combined with public information available.

Subcommittee members will meet and proceed forward with an evaluation of information available.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

ANJEC Membership List: Must be completed and submitted with membership fee for 2019

Helistop: Members have all been supplied with updates on the status of the application from Mayor Wolf.

VIP Articles: Member P. Wang-Iverson suggested an article for next month be written on – “electric vehicles - an option of purchasing when looking for a new car”.

Hunterdon County Community Day: No date provided yet.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Commission Membership: Co-Chair L. Davis updated. She made a suggestion that T. Rue to be added back to membership. A discussion took place regarding the current membership and need for (1) regular member and (1) Alt. II member. Members were asked to reach out to former members to see if they want to rejoin?

Dialogue took place regarding the current commission membership and a lack of attendance at the regularly scheduled monthly meetings. Members should confirm with the commission secretary their lack of availability when they cannot be in attendance as soon as they become aware of any conflicts. It was suggested that if there are current members who cannot attend that they consider stepping down from their appointment on the commission.

Member P. Wang-Iverson stated that the meeting has been hijacked by an administrative issue. The same issue occurred last month. Member, P. Wang-Iverson further suggested that the discussions taking place have nothing to do with the role of the environmental commission. An environmental commissions’ role in the township is education by reaching out to protect the East Amwell environment for the health and safety of the residents.

Member T. Rue stated. An explanation of what happened at a meeting is a significant part of commission and not good for the future of the commission if not stated therefore; believes the conversations are pertinent to the commission. Member, T. Rue would like for minutes to reflect

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all language and conversations which take place during a meeting. Concise edits to the minutes of the 1/28/19 reorganizational meeting will be proposed and provided by T. Rue for the members' consideration and adoption of the edits to the minutes if approved by members.

Member F. Gavigan suggested the tapes be linked to the township website for those interested in verbatim minutes.

Member P. Wang-Iverson requested that the minutes be sent out two weeks after the meeting so the minutes can be utilized as to do list.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

There was no need to re-open to the public.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- E-Mail Communication, 2-5-19, from Jeff Geist, Raritan Headwaters re: 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Stream Cleanup
- E-Mail Communication, 2-8-19, from Elizabeth Ritter, ANJEC re: 2019 Environmental Commission Grants
- E-Mail Communication, 2-15-19, from EA Mayor, re: Update on The Ridge Helistop Application
- E-Mail Communication, 2-16-19, from EA Mayor, re: Letter to the Editor

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to close the meeting was made by Gavigan and seconded by L. Davis and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

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Gail Brewi  
Environmental Commission Secretary