

## MINUTES

### **East Amwell Township Environmental Commission Business Meeting July 26, 2010 7:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The July 26, 2010 Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairperson, S. Parsons at 7:35 PM.

In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, S. Parsons announced that this is the Regular Business Meeting of the Environmental Commission, as published in the Hunterdon County Democrat on January 28, 2010. A copy of tonight's agenda was filed with the Township Clerk and the Township Committee, forwarded to the Hunterdon County Democrat, and the Trenton Times Newspaper, distributed to the various East Amwell Township Committees and Boards, and was posted on the Township Bulletin Board.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** S. Parsons, T. Robbi, D. Kellogg, D. Sageser (late), J. Angelone (late), E. Feinberg, J. Corboy (Secretary)

**ABSENT:** M Petrus, F. Clair, T. Martin, B. Hummel

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None received.

**PRESENTATION OF MINUTES:** July 26 2010 – Business Meeting

The minutes of the July 26, 2010 business meeting were motioned for approval by T. Robbi, and with a second from D. Kellogg, were approved with a clarification on page two under Conservation Easements. There were no abstentions.

**LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA:** There were no last minute additions to tonight's agenda.

**PRESENTATION OF BILLS:** none received

#### **REPORTS:**

**a. Planning Board** – D. Sageser stated that the Planning Board discussed the Amwell Valley Design Standards – no funding for formal study – to be budgeted for next year. They are anticipating studying new set back requirements. This issue might tie into the Scenic Byways/Highways. Recent issues concerning the bridges on Wertsville Road, now and in the future, were also discussed in regard to this topic.

**b. Township Committee** – T. Martin was absent this evening. Thus, no report was received.

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**c. Recycling Committee** – M. Petrus was absent this evening. Thus, no report was received. Secretary informed members that M. DiDonato personally hand delivered another copy of the recent letter to a few of the businesses, who did not respond to the original mailing. Responses were very slow in coming and a few of the businesses do not recycle. Secretary also reported that on October 2- Depot Day – Good Will Industries will have a truck present on the grounds to collect unwanted, gently-used clothing, furniture, etc.

**d. Farmland/Open Space Preservation** – T. Robbi stated that he had nothing new to report from this Committee.

**e. Sourlands Municipal Alliance Council** – T. Robbi reported that the Alliance has met and that they are working on finalizing their plan-phase II. It was erroneously reported in last month's minutes that they were developing the plan. This is incorrect. The plan is complete and they are just fine tuning it.

**f. Environmental Page on Website** – S. Parsons reported that nothing new was added to the website recently. She will be checking the tax bill mailing to see if there is anything of interest that could be put on the website. .

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**a. Public Outreach** – M. Petrus was absent this evening. Thus, no report was received. T. Robbi stated that he recently sent a copy of his latest "Notes from the Woods" VIP column to all via e-mail.

**b. Conservation Easements** – S. Parson stated that she has nothing new to report. The Site Review Committee will be meeting shortly to discuss the next set of letters to be sent out to property owners that they wish to visit. Approximately three or four properties have already received a site visit from the Sub-Committee.

**c. 4-H Fair** – D. Kellogg reported that a booth has been secured. Parking passes will be sent to the Municipal Building in her name. Office staff have been notified of this fact. Responses were received from the recent letters mailed to surrounding municipalities. Raritan Township declined. Delaware Township Environmental Commission invited D. Kellogg to attend a recent meeting and she obtained three volunteers. They will also provide information on underground storage tanks and on a new trail project that connects with the canal trails. A scheduling calendar was distributed to members so that they could sign up for booth duty. D. Kellogg will forward this scheduling calendar to secretary via e-mail, so that it can be forwarded to those committees who expressed an interest in volunteering. NJ Department of Environmental Protection was contacted and they sent coloring books (free of charge) that can be distributed to the children at the booth.

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**d. Sustainable East Amwell** – D. Sageser stated that this topic was discussed at Planning Board in relation to the Amwell Valley Design Standards. He hoped a formula could be developed to work Sustainability into the Zoning factor.

**APPLICATIONS FROM PLANNING BOARD & BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT  
FOR REVIEW: None received.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**a. Unused Pharmaceutical Collection** – J. Angelone stated that he received a response from NJ Department of Environmental Protection. Response was that there are no prohibitions on Covanta to collect unused prescription drugs providing they are transported with a hauler who has a solid waste hauling permit. J. Angelone stated that the company he works for does have one. He also provided members with information on a particular website: [operationmedicynecabinet.nj.org](http://operationmedicynecabinet.nj.org). On November 13 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, residents can take unused prescription drugs to their local police department. He suggested that we volunteer to collect these items here at the Municipal Building and transport them to the state police barracks. Secretary suggested that they might be collected at the previous Depot Day. J. Angelone will contact the County to gather more information on this event and report back to the members at the next meeting. Event might be publicized on the website and the VIP. Members questioned whether veterinary medicines might also be collected.

**b. Road Salt** – J. Angelone and D. Sageser attended the Township Committee meeting where this topic was discussed. D. Sageser informed members briefly about what was discussed - not expanding use of road salt. J. Angelone stated that he made a point of saying that personal driving methods was a key factor with this issue. Effects of salt use on local streams and plant life was also mentioned. Eventually, no decision was reached – the Township Committee stated that they will take it under advisement. D. Sageser stated that it was mentioned at the meeting that 500 tons of grit are used at \$12 @ ton and 100 tons of salt are used at \$52 @ ton. Storage of salt is another environmental issue to consider. T. Robbi suggested that D. Sageser and J. Angelone compose a letter on this item as a follow-up the meeting. The draft letter should be shared with the Board of Health for their input. Draft letter will be sent to this secretary and she will forward it to the Board of Health, asking them if they wish to join us with this letter or do their own. Draft letter will be reviewed at the next meeting. D. Kellogg stated that not expanding the use of salt is a key point and she thought that it might be more helpful if the letter came from both groups. E. Feinberg suggested attaching basic and vital statistics that we might have just to get them into the record. Stony Brook Milestone Watershed Association replied to J. Angelone giving some basics informational facts on effects of salt and volunteered to come to the next Township Committee meeting when the topic might be discussed.

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**NEW BUSINESS: None presented.**

**CORRESPONDENCE: All correspondence was listed on the 7/26/10 agenda.**

**OPEN TO COMMISSION MEMBERS: Secretary reported that she just received an e-mail alert on the fire hazard of compact fluorescent bulbs that are manufactured in China. Suggestion was made in the e-mail alert that only name brands be purchased.**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: No comments received.**

**ADJOURN: 8:37 PM Motion for adjournment was received from T. Robbi and D. Kellogg seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

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Joyce S. Corboy, Secretary

cc: Env. Com. Members	Board of Adjustment	Board of Health
Twp. Com. & Clerk	Democrat Newspaper	Recreation Com.
Twp. Bulletin Brd.	Trenton Times	Recycling Com.
Planning Board	Associate Members	Agric. Adv. Com.
Farmland & Open Space Preservation		