

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
RECYCLING COMMITTEE MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
September 10, 2019 - 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 September 10, 2019 in the Small Meeting Room of the Municipal Building, 1070 Route 202/31, Ringoes, NJ by A. Castellano.

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, 2018 issue of 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.

2019 ATTENDANCE (X- present; E – excused; A – absent)

Recycling Committee Member	1/08/19	2/27/19	3/12/19	4/09/19	5/14/19	6/11/19 - cancel	7/09/19	8/13/19	9/10/19	10/08/19	11/12/19	12/10/19
Will Harrison	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	E			
Alison Castellano	X	X	E	X	E	-	X	X	X			
Erica Johanson	X*	E	X*	X*	X*	-	X	E	E			
Tom Rue	E	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X			
Mark Gunn	X	X	A	E	X	-	E	X	X			
Chantal Napoleon	E	A	X	X	E	-	X	7:41	X			
Kevin Ostrander	A	X	A	A	X	-	X	X	A			
Vacant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			

*Others present: Coordinator, Rosemary Georgett * virtual attendance*

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – T. Rue made a motion that was seconded by M. Gunn to open to the public and Judi DiMaio was recognized. Ms. DiMaio said she would wait to add comments during the Communications agenda item. M. Gunn made a motion that was seconded by T. Rue to close to the public that was carried by all members with no objections or abstentions.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES - The minutes from the August 13, 2019 meeting were put forward and **T. Rue made a motion that was seconded by M. Gunn to accept the minutes with minor edits was carried with no objections or abstention.**

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA –

- Delaware River Clean Up

REPORTS -

Youth Report: O. Ostrander was not present to report.

Depot Report: September 2019 – A written report was submitted by W. Harrison and A Castellano ran through the data provided. She continued that the dumpsters were late again and thanks to Jason Silverthorn for his diligence in getting them delivered. A. Castellano said this is the third time the dumpsters were not delivered on time. R. Georgett shared an email from C. Santo to W. Harrison which included a message C. Santo received confirming delivery on Friday followed by an email of apology from our Account Manager regarding the problem. R. Georgett continued that it’s the same

story as prior issues, and A. Castellano said at least the dumpsters were delivered in time for the depot.

M. Gunn said he would be present at the Depot in November but not October.

DEPOT LEAD ASSIGNMENTS

September 7, 2019	W. Harrison	Report provided
October 5, 2019	T. Rue	
November 2, 2019	C. Napoleon	
December 7, 2019	M. Gunn	
January 4, 2020		
February 1, 2020		

Township Committee Update: K. Ostrander was not present to report

Styrofoam Recycling: T. Rue said no update. A. Castellano said when she first joined the committee they discussed the “StyroGenie” machine and that the school uses Styrofoam trays in the lunchroom. She continued explaining what the SytroGenie machine is and that it can take 1,800 dirty Styrofoam trays and overnight reduces them to a small brick. A. Castellano said it did not move forward due to the high cost and lack of funding. She continued that Ed Stoloski, East Amwell School Superintendent met with Mayor Rick Wolfe, and Deputy Mayor Tim Matthews and Mr. Stoloski was enthusiastic about getting this machine for the school and Mr. Wolfe and Mr. Matthews felt it could be used for styrofoam by the township also. A. Castellano continued that if the funds could be found to purchase the machine, the bricks it produces could be sold to Styrofoam recycling companies plus current Township expenses to dispose of collected Styrofoam are eliminated. She asked the Committee to google StyroGenie to check it out and that she believes this is moving forward. A. Castellano said there will be follow up to see if the funds can be obtained through grants, other than clean communities, or other sources. There was discussion regarding how the machine operates, what happens to the bricks it produces and the contaminants contained in them, the cost which is approximately \$20,000, and that the interest by both school and township is good.

TREX Recycling: C. Napoleon said the Grange has been doing a great job collecting and sorting, and she has been helping. She continued that she will get the current weight information and post it on the website. A. Castellano said there is great momentum, and we need to identify the next groups to sponsor benches. She continued that K. Ostrander is checking with the girl scouts, she will contact the boy scouts, and put a newsflash on the website as well as part of the communications plan.

OLD BUSINESS -

Recycling Communication Plan:

R. Georgett said the sub-committee has met a few times including C. Napoleon, T. Rue and J. DiMaio, to develop a plan that can be executed again. She continued that this information was contained in the email send to the Recycling Committee for their feedback and discussion tonight. R. Georgett said key actions the sub-committee are suggesting including developing “key messages” and content to support them which J. DiMaio will report in, C. Napoleon has developed a draft calendar where monthly topics and activities/events for communications will be tracked for use by the Committee. C. Napoleon asked how this calendar would be different from the one currently on the website and there was some discussion among the committee. A. Castellano said that a planning

calendar for the Committee is different and once information/content is complete, it can then go into the website calendar. R. Georgett said she will work on a list of key events that happen during the year where content/key messages can be promoted. She continued that T. Rue is going to work on a suggestion for having a competition to name our Recycling Mascot and/or a slogan.

J. DiMaio said she had a number of ideas the topics such as: Why should I recycle anyway? Storm Water: what is it and why should I care? Plastics – what do those numbers mean anyway? What is the scope of the problem with plastics and what can I do? How much plastic am I really using? What happens to my recyclables? Where can I find recycling information? Plastic recycling alternatives, like making bird feeders. FAQs. There was general agreement that these are great ideas!

C. Napoleon said the calendar would include when recycling committee & sub-committee meetings are held, special topics around holidays like for Halloween a reminder on recycling candy wrappers, Christmas opportunities to donate decorations, etc and these items could then be pushed out via social media and other communication vehicles at the appropriate time. She continued that there are many tidbits that can be added and will help the community, but was looking for feedback on the draft. C. Napoleon said the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day is April 2020, and will definitely be added. A. Castellano asked R. Georgett if she has the file of recycling topics used previously, and R. Georgett said there is no file but the 2017 VIPs would have this information. A. Castellano said it will be easy enough to pull this list together and the timing is key for example people start wrapping gifts in October or November, so related information needs to go out early. She continued that there will need to be a plan to make sure we don't miss on timing. There was discussion regarding what needs to be on the website but not necessarily on the planning calendar, such as County recycling events.

R. Georgett said she started looking at opportunities to get out content in addition to what's being used now, website, VIP, facebook, etc we could also look at have a flier or table at Clawson House when they have special events for example; the BlackRiver Railroad events, Township bus trips, Township Tree Lighting Event, etc. There was discussion regarding the various social media, events and they need to be covered with sound bites of information. R. Georgett suggested we go to Township Committee meetings as part of the plan as well because if we could engage each township committee member there would be a ripple effect in the community. A. Castellano asked J. DiMaio what the Spaceship example is and J. DiMaio explained that it's a discussion with PowerPoint where she engages individuals on what they'd bring on a spaceship, there is an exchange, questions, etc. She continued saying that this leads to saying "you are on spaceship earth and we are all "crew" – there are no passengers. There was discussion that this would be good at numerous events.

A. Castellano said she has connected with TerraCycle to do a presentation at the school and township as well, and that would be a great opportunity for J. DiMaio's Spaceship as well. M. Gunn said we could put this on the website as well and A. Castellano said certainly this could be recorded and put on the website. R. Georgett asked other Committee members for any additional feedback, and it was agreed that these ideas are good to move forward with. There was discussion about using the giveaway items purchased for Color Run and not distributed. R. Georgett said J. DiMaio had an idea to let individuals paint on/color then to personalize the fabric bags to take home. A. Castellano said we need to identify the forums for these kinds of events and R. Georgett said some ideas are during Friday Nights in the Park, at the Color Run, at the TerraCycle event, during the 4-H, Hunterdon County Community Day, etc. There was discussion that the 4-H was probably too big but the Hunterdon County Day would be a good forum next year. There may be additional 4-H venues that are more local/focused, and Sourland Music Festival is another opportunity for this education.

A Castellano asked what are the next steps, and suggested we create a standard template to use for collecting the information. C. Napoleon said pulling together the detailed content could be very time consuming and J. DiMaio shared content on the internet under "America Recycles Day" which is November 15, 2019 and said she found so great information that she just ran out of time. J. DiMaio

said there is so much information and all you need to do is put your event on their calendars. She continued that they also have ideas for magnets, etc. R. Georgett said maybe we could do something at the Depot for this, and T. Rue said we need the format first. A. Castellano said we could just pull something from this website and use it. C. Napoleon asked what connections we had through the school, and do children helping at Depot get extra credit or other incentives? A. Castellano said the Environmental Club is just starting up for this year and they are very enthusiastic at the beginning so it's a good time to engage with them. She continued that we could also funnel information through them to the school children. There was further discussion about how to engage the school, and A. Castellano said she is confident the TerraCycle pieces will get going. There was discussion about timing for the TerraCycle presentation on America Recycles Day which is Friday or on Saturday. A. Castellano said she will follow up on the TerraCycle presentation date.

R. Georgett said the sub-committee will meet to pull together content for October and then look at America Recycles Day and TerraCycle for November. A. Castellano said we can use the give away items than as well. J. DiMaio said a guessing game of home any caps are in the jar is another fun/easy idea.

Foam Palace: No update, table for next meeting

Recycle Coach (RC):

R. Georgett said C. Napoleon had asked about recycling of books and with feedback from the library this information is being updated. Other members of the website said they have looked at the site, and A. Castellano said any errors, questions or changes can be sent to R. Georgett. M. Gunn asked if the information was correct for straws given the zero waste box, and A. Castellano said yes that one is correct.

Zero Waste Boxes: R. Georgett said she hasn't been able to contact TerraCycle yet about setting up an account, and A. Castellano said the new caps box is already ½ full. A. Castellano is waiting to hear back from TerraCycle regarding the cap size required for the box and if it's small caps only, the boxes will go longer. She continued that we will need another caps box next month, and have plenty of room in the candy wrapper box as we approach Halloween.

Adopt A Spot Program: R. Georgett said she left a message for the Mayor of East Windsor to find out what they did to start their program, lessons learned and generally get advice on how to begin. She will report back after they speak.

VIP/Website Articles and Content: A. Castellano provided a copy of the September VIP and said what C. Napoleon wrote for the article was changed with incorrect information included. She continued that the picture is also wrong because the Grange purchased the bench, it was not a TerraCycle bench. R. Georgett will reach out to Candy about this and find out what happened. A. Castellano said there should not be changes to the content, and it's under the Township title with incorrect information that was changed. She continued that Mayor Wolfe will be talking about this at the Township meeting as well, and we will not be putting any content in the VIP until this issue is resolved. It was agreed that the VIP should not be changing content submitted by and under the name of the Township.

Delaware River Clean Up – R. Georgett said there are volunteers needed for leadership roles including the sign-in desk, leading groups along the path, etc. A. Castellano said we have put the opportunity for volunteers on the website already and R. Georgett said this is for leaders, who are

known to/members of the committee. R. Georgett encouraged all committee members to consider volunteering to do pick-up collection or take on a lead role and provided details on opportunities.

INVOICES - None

CORRESPONDENCE – None

NEW BUSINESS – DEP Environmental Excellence Award – A. Castellano said she would like to nominate Sharon Ernst for this award and shared examples of the many great things she has done including planting gardens, getting grant money, etc., which merit recognition. A. Castellano said she will further review the requirements and connect with Mayor Wolfe. All committee members present were in support of this.

OPEN TO PUBLIC – M. Gunn made a motion seconded by T. Rue to open to the public. J. DiMaio asked A. Castellano about the StyroGenie and said that if there is heat involved in the process, Styrofoam has toxins such as benzene and carbon monoxide and is there a way to capture this or is an air permit needed? A. Castellano said those are great points but it must be OK because it has passed regulations. J. DiMaio said some places use foam ball crushing machines and in NJ an air permit is needed, and that the school and township should check into this as part of the process. A. Castellano said that is good information and she'll follow up on it. C. Napoleon said can't the school stop using Styrofoam and A. Castellano said they used to have staff to clean plastic trays but the cost of staff was much higher than purchasing Styrofoam trays. T. Rue said NJ is looking further into regulations about this.

M. Gunn made a motion seconded by T. Rue 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 T. Rue and carried unanimously with no objections or abstentions to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Rosemary Georgett, Recycling Coordinator