

**MINUTES
EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
Environmental Commission Business Meeting
November 26, 2018
7:30 P.M**

CALL TO ORDER:

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE:

The November 26, 2018 Business Meeting of the East Amwell Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:39 p.m. Co-Chair, L. Davis announced that this meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. This is a Regular Business Meeting of the East Amwell Environmental Commission, as published in the Hunterdon County Democrat on March 22, 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 2018:

Environmental Commission Member	No Meeting	2/26/18	3/26/18	4/23/18	5/30/18	6/25/18	7/23/18	8/27/18	9/24/18	10/22/18	11/26/18	No Meeting
Dee Kellogg		X	X	X	X	X			X	X	8:22	
Joe Angelone		X	X	X	X	7:45	X		X	X	X	
Frances Gavigan		X	X	X	X	X		X	X			
Tom Rue		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Patsy Wang-Iverson		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Lisa Davis		X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	
James Edwards			X	X	X				X		X	
Kevin Ostrander (alt. I)							X			X		

*Others present: Gail Brewi, Lisa Mastropolo (Watershed Institute)
Township Committee Liaison: David Wang-Iverson*

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES: October 22, 2018 Business Meeting
Minutes of October 22, 2018: Motion to approve the draft minutes was made by J. Angelone and seconded by P. Wang-Iverson. There were none opposed. J. Edwards abstained. Minutes were unanimously approved with minor edits from P. Wang-Iverson.

BILLS OF THE EVENING

Secretary G. Brewi noted there were no bills for payment.

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LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS

Secretary G. Brewi noted there were no changes to the posted agenda

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Co-Chair, L. Davis opened the floor to public comments. None were made. Motion to close to the public was made by J. Angelone and seconded by L. Davis.

REPORTS:

Financial Report

Secretary G. Brewi provided copies of the budget through month ending October and noted that the commissions' budget for 2018 has been expended.

Committee Reports:

AG Advisory - No Report Provided.

Planning Board

Township Committee Liaison D. Wang-Iverson shared that the proposed solar project introduced to the Township Committee is in line with master plan and received approval. He also stated that Deputy Mayor Wolf discussed research relative to the noise and public comments regarding the helipad application.

Township Committee

Township Committee Liaison D. Wang-Iverson shared that a special meeting will be held on Thursday, November 29th at 7:00 p.m. regarding the helipad application at the Ridge. All were encouraged to attend.

Recycling Committee

Liaison T. Rue stated there were discussions at the monthly meeting regarding the execution of the ongoing TREX Program and the Township recycling process. A plan will be put in place to better communicate to the residents regarding the recycling process. The committee wants to be more discriminating about the recycling collection at East Amwell.

Member P. Wang-Iverson stated that the Pastor from the Kirkpatrick Memorial Presbyterian Church has volunteered to be the liaison for the next collection for the TREX program. He has

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registered with TREX, will maintain the data base, record weight, report and collect. A lock box was suggested for entry into the foam house instead of providing keys. The feasibility of a lock box will be discussed with J. Silverthorn, and approval sought by Township Committee if feasible. K. Ostrander is willing to donate a scale for the program if a second scale is needed. The bench awarded for the 500 lbs. collected has been shipped.

Recreation Committee

There were discussions regarding a committee liaison. Member J. Edwards will check his availability on the 3rd Thursdays of the month to attend and be the EC liaison. Decision will be provided at the reorganizational meeting.

Farmland/Open Space Preservation Committee

Liaison T. Rue shared that the committee continues to discuss the Higgins property. A public survey will be conducted to solicit uses for the land. He also updated the committee regarding B/38 38 L/42 and L/42.5 which are contiguous lots that the County would like to steward. Application was made and approved.

Sub-Committee Reports:

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

Co-Chair L. Davis suggested the incorporation of the EC web page as a responsibility for this sub-committee. The members will meet in December to review and discuss the current EC page and subpages for content, links, and information. The committee will report back to the EC with recommendations.

Secretary G. Brewi shared that she completed training with Alison Castellano on the new Township website. The EC needs to choose a secondary contact, a volunteer member, who will write content for the website and be available to train with Alison. Committee secretaries will have the responsibility to update administrative information such as minutes and agendas while also having the ability to make changes to data, links, and any other information to enhance and personalize the EC web page and subpages.

Member P. Wang-Iverson inquired about the location of items on the web site, such as the conservation easement map and content and suggested changes. Member J. Angelone clarified the management of the updates and suggested the subcommittee collectively review, as suggested by Co-Chair L. Davis, write content, and present to the EC for input and approval at a meeting. Once that is completed revisions and enhancements can be implemented. Commission to follow up at next meeting to determine EC volunteer member for writing content and having secondary access to the site.

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Member P. Wang-Iverson suggested this subcommittee take on the responsibility to be the liaison with the Green Team. J. Angelone has completed the application to volunteer as a member of the green team but has not yet received any information regarding the status of his application.

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

Member J. Angelone commented on his report for the planning board regarding 36 Linvale Road, an application based on impervious coverage. His report suggested that there could be a stormwater issue and has been provided to the board for consideration.

Easements Committee

Member J. Angelone shared information on his completed work regarding township easements. He looked for areas with a concentration of conservation easements, so a larger number of inspections could be completed in a geographic area. Danbury Drive was identified with 14 properties having conservation easements. The tax maps were utilized to locate the specific location of each easement. Correspondence has been drafted for the property owners, the plan for visits will be provided to the township committee and site visits will be scheduled to begin in mid-January.

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

Co-Chair L. Davis updated the group of her investigations conducted so recommendation could be made for 2019 budget allocations if EC is to proceed with the initiative.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Member P. Wang-Iverson updated that (2) articles were reviewed by members D. Kellogg and J. Angelone and submitted for publishing. One article thanked the Township community for reaching the 500-pound goal for the TREX program. The second article was written to raise awareness of the upcoming Holiday and the need to be less wasteful and to recycle all the paper and boxes. Article for January is due the last Friday in December. D. Kellogg agreed to reach out to the County for information regarding the topic of the Right to Farm as a potential article in the future. The Helipad was also discussed as a topic but, it was agreed that such an article needs to be comprehensive and should be done in conjunction with Community Task Force. Chair D. Kellogg will write a road salt article for submission for the January issue.

Members discussed suggested increases to the operating budget for 2019. It was agreed that the EC would request an increase in the secretary hours allocated, meetings, conferences, and miscellaneous expenses. The increase in the operating budget is due to an increased scope of work and monthly meetings, addition of commission responsibility for web site pages, and increased number of meetings attended by members. Members paid fees out of pocket (unreimbursed) and

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commission secretary worked more hours than allocated per month than allocated in the 2018 operating budget. Co-Chair L. Davis raised the need to allocate funding for an updated ERI. It was agreed to request funding to support an update. Secretary G. Brewi will draft a budget proposal supported by detailed reasons as discussed for the budget request. Draft will be provided to Chair D. Kellogg and upon approval submitted to Township CFO.

Members agreed that the EC goals and mission statement for 2019 will be reviewed, drafted, and provided to the commission by the public outreach committee for discussion at the reorganization meeting.

Members discussed the Township application for the River Restoration grant and agreed to work with the Sourland Conservancy based on recommendation from Member J. Angelone as the Sourland Conservancy has the resources and manpower to assist with application. J. Angelone will handle.

Members J. Angelone and P. Wang-Iverson volunteered meet on Saturday and handle the clean-up of the commissions' storage space located in the basement of the Municipal Building as requested by Municipal Clerk.

Member P. Wang Iverson shared that she has registered for a Stormwater Questions webinar on December 6th offered by ANJEC.

Members thanked D. Kellogg for her service on the commission.

NEW BUSINESS:

Member P. Wang-Iverson suggested a change in process. If a Committee Liaison cannot attend a monthly meeting in the future they will advise Secretary G. Brewi so an alternate can be sought to attend the meeting allowing consistent monthly reporting.

Chair D. Kellogg has communicated to the Municipal Clerk she will remain on EC as an adjunct member for 2019; as a member when needed.

Chair D. Kellogg updated regarding the Helipad application at the Ridge. Documents were reviewed, and the application is not currently deemed complete by NJ DOT. Township will be notified once the application has been deemed complete and will have the opportunity to express concerns. D. Kellogg commented that the application security and emergency plans conflict. Local responders will be notified however, based on the location of the pad there is no access. Concerns were raised regarding the firefighting equipment and materials to be utilized and whether the local emergency responders are trained using such chemicals. The township should be concerned about the firefighting chemicals as contamination could occur and be a problem for the wells in the municipality if these chemicals seep into the ground. Residents have concerns regarding the flight path and noise. Air and noise modeling will be performed but, applicant is not required to provide.

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It was suggested it is best to focus specific comments relative to specific violations of the county and municipal ordinances. D. Kellogg clarified that application is for a helistop with restricted use for “minimal” re-fueling, therefore, it will be permissible for emergencies. Application states the helipad will be operational for 6 months a year. Member T. Rue inquired about the economic benefit to the township however, this is not a consideration. Member J. Angelone clarified that the DOT has the right to approve or deny and the township can make comments for considerations. The laws have changed since 2008 when a prior application for the same was made but, withdrawn.

Co-Chair L. Davis requested confirmation of availability from all members for the reorganizational meeting to be held on January 28th.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Chair D. Kellogg asked for a motion to re-open the floor to public comments. Motion was made by L. Davis and seconded by J. Angelone.

Lia Mastropolo, from the Watershed Institute introduced herself and stated that although she has not yet reviewed the application, the Watershed would be concerned with the material of and size of the helicopter pad. She would look at the impervious coverage and stormwater rules since based on the application location it drains to Back Brook Road. Run off will be a concern along with potential refueling running into streams and the impact on the bird habitat. Washington Crossing Audubon will also have concerns surrounding habitats as well.

Member J. Angelone spoke to the Sourland Conservancy and they will also investigate concerns with bird habitats. Member P. Wang-Iverson asked for clarification regarding the best approach to providing comments on behalf of the township. A community task force has been set up to comment but, it was also recommended that each agency and specific committee should comment surrounding their area of expertise as each would be covering different areas.

Chair D. Kellogg commented that the Township has 30 days to respond once the DOT notifies the Township that the application is deemed complete. D. Kellogg noted that she has placed a call to the Amwell Valley Fire Department and is waiting for a call back to discuss their specific training. D. Kellogg will forward additional comments to Secretary G. Brewi for member distribution and review. D. Kellogg believes there is value in multiple perspectives and that it leaves flexibility for public comments to be hyperbolic.

Noreen Bailey, resident - 129 Back Brook Road spoke and she believes the more organizations that speak out individually the greater the impact will be. She informed the public and committee that she had received a flyer in her mailbox showing the flight plan. She is very concerned about her well and the environment as there are horses and livestock. She asked that the EC provide a strong statement regarding the concerns surrounding the application from the Ridge. Mrs. Bailey will forward the post card from her mail to Secretary, G. Brewi for distribution to the EC.

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Chair, D. Kellogg and Members J. Angelone and J. Edwards plan to attend the special meeting of the Township on Thursday evening.

Motion to close to the public was made by L. Davis and seconded by D. Kellogg. There were none opposed. Second session open to the public was unanimously closed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Memorandum received 10/22/18, Denise Doolan, Clerk of the Board of Freeholders re: Resolution seeking resources from Governmental Agencies to combat Emerald Ash Borer/Insect Infestation
- E-Mail Communication dated 10/23/18, Krista Parsons re: Block 31 Lot 5.02 C Variance Application, Public Hearing 11/14/18
- Media Release dated 10/29/18, Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders re: Hunterdon County Volunteers Clean-Up along the Delaware
- Letter received 10/31/18, Shirley Turner, Senator 18th District, re: East Amwell Grant Opportunities
- E-Mail Communication dated 11-6-18, Katherine Fullerton re: FOSPC, November Agenda and October Draft minutes.
- E-Mail Communication dated 11-6-18, Courtney Pacelli, Raritan River Watershed re: CDE Stakeholder Survey.
- E-Mail Communication dated 11-8-18, Krista Parsons re: Planning Board, Variance Application for 36 Linvale Road.
- E-Mail Communication dated 11-7-18, The Watershed Institute re: Green Infrastructure Certification.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair D. Kellogg asked for a motion to close the meeting. Motion was made by J. Angelone and seconded by P. Wang-Iverson and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:19 p.m.

Gail Brewi
Environmental Commission Secretary