

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
RECYCLING COMMITTEE MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
May 14, 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 May 14, 2019 in the Small Meeting Room of the Municipal Building, 1070 Route 202/31, Ringoes, NJ by W. Harrison.

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, filed in the Township Clerk’s Office, and posted on the Bulletin Board on May 7, 2019.

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	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							
Alison Castellano	X	X	E	X	E							
Ron O’Reilly (resigned 4/2019)	X	A	A	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erica Johanson	X*	E	X*	X*	X*							
Tom Rue	E	X	X	X	X							
Mark Gunn	X	X	A	E	X							
Chantal Napoleon	E	A	X	X	E							
Kevin Ostrander	A	X	A	A	X							

*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. Judi DiMaio stated that she was present to listen at this time. W. Harrison closed to the public and all members carried unanimously with no objections or abstentions.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES - The minutes from the April 9, 2019 meeting were put forward and **M. Gunn made a motion that was seconded by T. Rue to accept the minutes with minor edits. All members carried unanimously with no objections and K. Ostrander abstained.**

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – None

REPORTS -

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

Depot Report: May 2019 – K. Ostrander said the dumpsters had not been delivered when he arrived for the Depot and he had to place a few calls using the emergency numbers without success and then called the main number at Republic around 8:40 a.m. He continued that the Republic representative said they see East Amwell in their system and the dumpsters will be dispatched right away. K. Ostrander continued that he and M. Gunn began collecting items that were neatly organized planning to put them into the dumpsters when they arrived. He then left for the Color Run, M. Gunn covered the Depot until he returned and was very disappointed to see that the dumpsters never arrived. K. Ostrander continued that he didn’t think that calling Republic on Friday rather Saturday it would have

changed the outcome. He continued that they had collected around 20 bags plus Styrofoam and TerraCycle, and the grit yard was open.

K. Ostrander said that after returning from the Color Run he tried to call Republic again and they did not answer. He continued that DPW staff then told him the dumpsters were not coming, and so they stopped accepting items. T. Rue said that he had a similar problem in March with dumpsters not delivered on time. He continued saying it took several hours and numerous calls to the local office and Corporate office in Ohio on Friday to have the dumpsters delivered and they were there on Saturday. T. Rue said after much negotiation he was able to organize delivery of two dumpsters but it was not easy. There was further discussion about managing the late delivery and problems with reaching Republic. W. Harrison said his experience with Depots and Spring Clean Up dumpster delivery was flawless; and the Township has not had many issues over the years but have in the past few months. There was discussion about vendor performance and that RV, who had provided poor service in the past, may have purchased Republic.

K. Ostrander said once it was clear there would be no dumpster delivery, they had to begin turning people away. He continued that the website was updated quickly and signs were outside on Monday, so most people were very understanding. K. Ostrander said the dumpsters were here from Monday through Friday and Republic said they will reverse the charges so let's make sure the billing is accurate. He continued saying that J. Silverthorn has been asked to confirm before leaving on Friday that dumpsters are delivered.

W. Harrison read the message below from C. Santo, who is our liaison with Republic.

“Today I spoke with Andrew from Republic who is Eric's Supervisor. I have to admit, he doesn't have much to say....he's sorry we've had problems...blah blah.. but Eric is new and we have a Very Complicated account! I ask, "how complicated is it!?! We have pick up at Mun Bldg once a week, every 2 weeks at the Park and the first Saturday of every month is Recycle Depot. The only exception is April when we have spring and roadside cleanup". He'd like to have a meeting with me, Eric and himself. I told him we had a meeting w/Eric and it doesn't seem to make a difference! In the end, he's going to review our quote and billing (yes, Eirc has the billing messed up also) and speak with me again on Monday to discuss and hopefully resolve our issues.

Rosemary and Will, I asked about where the recycle trash goes. He said they take it to the River Road facility in Flemington who then sorts and transports it to facility in King of Prussia. He "assured" me that it does not go to landfills!

I will keep you further in the loop after I speak with him again on Monday.”

There was discussion regarding the emergency contact information in the binder which appeared to be old, and that Chris from Republic has helped in the past. R. Georgett confirmed that Eric is our Account Manager and Chris is his boss the Operations Supervisor for Clinton, and she will ensure the information in the binder is updated. T. Rue said the number on the list for Chris is his cell phone.

K. Ostrander said there should be someone on the Township staff confirming on Friday afternoon whether the dumpsters have been delivered, and inform the Depot lead. W. Harrison said the Depot lead should coordinate this; and if they can't go personally to check that the dumpsters have arrived the Lead should call another Recycling Committee member to check for them by 3:00 and put the signs out. The Committee agreed this approach would be effective, and K. Ostrander said that he has also asked J. Silverthorn to check. T. Rue said that Chris at Republic is the one to call and he is the Depot lead for June. R. Georgett said that during a conversation with C. Santos it was confirmed that

Eric is the problem our previous account manager was Jennifer who did a great job. She continued that Chris should continue to be on the emergency contact list and the Township will be looking at other vendors when the contract expires in the Fall.

R. Georgett asked for recommendations of other trash/recycling vendor names to give to C. Santos when she goes out for quotes. W. Harrison said that he sent a name of a firm to check out directly to C. Santos, and K. Ostrander said Cortese is another local firm that has good service and should be considered. W. Harrison said the committee should submit any other suggestions and there was further discussion regarding Cortese being a good option and that they are female owned.

DEPOT LEAD ASSIGNMENTS

April 6, 2019	W. Harrison	Reported at April 9 meeting
May 4, 2019	K. Ostrander	Reported at May 14 meeting
June 1, 2019	T. Rue	
July 6, 2019	M. Gunn	
August 3, 2019		
September 7, 2019		

Township Committee Update: K. Ostrander said the Clean-Up Day fee changes were approved by Township Committee and the Ordinance will be updated. He continued that Road Side clean-up was also covered and the general report was that all went smooth. W. Harrison said he was glad the Ordinance and Clean-Up Day fees were approved.

Environmental Commission Report: T. Rue has not been officially re-appointed and there was no meeting last month. There was discussion regarding the Environmental Commission liaison appointment, and M. Gunn made a motion seconded by R. Georgett to suspend the discussion with no abstention and T. Rue objected.

Styrofoam Recycling: T. Rue said it is ready for another pick up, and he will take care of it before the June meeting.

TREX Recycling: E. Johanson said J. Silverthorn emailed her because there is enough recycling for the DPW bench; and he calls her when there are a number of bags to be weighed. E. Johanson said there are 72 lbs that can be applied to the bench for Living Waters, and she will connect with A. Castellano Mike Atzert to get the contact for Living Waters.

OLD BUSINESS -

Ordinance 19-02 – Depot charge for Trucks, Tires: W. Harrison said this was approved as noted during the Township Committee update, and this gives us more latitude to charge more for extra large loads.

Spring Clean Up: W. Harrison had distributed a written report, he said the turnout was lighter than average and may have been because there wasn't a Spring Newsletter which we can't know for certain. W. Harrison continued that the Township should always have three dumpsters, the individual who had brought large loads prior years did not come, and the annual tally was within \$10 of his estimate. W. Harrison said it would be good if someone else was the lead next year and he would be the advisor. He continued that the committee can address that next Spring, and the step by step process is set up to follow. R. Georgett will have the selection of a date and lead for Clean Up day on the January 2020 agenda.

W. Harrison said there was an entire tub of baseball bats brought in, and T. Rue said he counted 35 of them. W. Harrison said there were also several computers and good quality items donated which Good Will received. He continued that the trophies that had been in the foam palace for a long time were given to Crown Trophy. W. Harrison said there are metal file cabinets with files in them that have been abandoned in the foam palace and should either be given to Clawson House if they could use them or thrown away next year.

Road Side Clean Up: T. Rue said others backed out of running the event last minute, so he and R. Georgett coordinated. He continued that 23 people signed up compared with 31 last year, and 14 people in total showed up on the day. T. Rue said the weather was bad and the card didn't go out which could be why numbers were low. E. Johanson said she always cleans up Stony Brook Road and doesn't bring her litter to the township office. T. Rue said he was aware and included this. K. Ostrander asked how many bags were collected and T. Rue said it was less than prior years, maybe 0.4 cubic feet in one dumpster. He continued that the dumpsters were very large for what was collected, and could be smaller going forward. W. Harrison asked for an official report and K. Ostrander said the report is important including trending information because the Township wants to know there is less litter on the roads. T. Rue said he will be preparing a report and although it's hard to assess a number of people told him there was less litter.

R. Georgett said the individual who was supposed to lead became ill and so equipment and key information including email contact prior participants was difficult to find. There was continued discussion regarding using the website for communications and that some individuals don't use the website. W. Harrison said the committee will need to determine the best approach to advertise & educate about this next year. T. Rue showed copies of material that West Amwell uses to educate around recycling, and provided R. Georgett with a copy.

Color Run: E. Johanson said it was wet but good. She continued that the table was in a tent with D&R Greenway who had a large table with a wheel and this attracted many folks. E. Johanson said no one took any of the giveaway items because the D&R Greenway roulette wheel got all the attention.

Spring Postcard: W. Harrison asked why the postcard about Road Side and Spring Clean Up was not mailed and R. Georgett said that the committee didn't have content for it. W. Harrison said it should have said go to the website. There was discussion about having a postcard directing folks to the website and including dates for Road Side and Spring Clean Up. M. Gunn suggested the committee also ensure it is in the VIP. W. Harrison said the committee will follow up next year to see if the website will suffice or should a postcard be mailed as well. R. Georgett confirmed that a postcard that focuses on Road Side and Spring Clean-Up can be covered with Clean Communities funds.

Bale Twine: no update

Foam Palace: K. Ostrander said he would support getting a coat of paint, and it does not need to be replaced at this time. T. Rue agreed. W. Harrison said the committee should agree how to have this painted, and could DPW do this? K. Ostrander said the DPW needs to focus on the municipal building and the committee should handle the foam palace themselves. R. Georgett said A. Castellano suggested students or local artists could paint the foam palace or do a mural as a project. K. Ostrander said if it is a mural the committee should approve the design and this was generally agreed. R. Georgett said the Township could establish a Clean Communities mini-grant for a group of students or others to paint the Foam Palace, and it would be an incentive for them to do this. K. Ostrander said the school head of Environmental would be the right contact, Sharon Ernst.

W. Harrison asked if the committee should determine an amount for the mini-grant and confirmed that clean communities would also pay for materials. R. Georgett suggested the committee gather more information before determining an amount. **M. Gunn made a motion that was seconded by T. Rue to reach out to Sharon Ernst at the East Amwell School about students painting the foam palace. All members carried unanimously with no objection or abstention.** W. Harrison asked R. Georgett to follow up with Sharon Ernst about this and report back to the committee.

Recycle Coach: R. Georgett said Recycle Coach App with East Amwell Township specific recycling information has been loaded onto the website. She continued by asking the committee to test drive the information on Recycle Coach App by entering requests and checking to ensure the data is correct. R. Georgett continued by providing examples of the information that should be validated because much of it is a few clicks down, and the committee can help make sure the data is accurate. There was some discussion about projecting this on the screen so the committee can go through it together but this would not be efficient use of meeting time. W. Harrison said the committee has discussed using the screen before and should figure out how to do this.

Zero Waste Boxes: R. Georgett said the committee had agreed to keep this on the agenda, and one for caps is being used. W. Harrison said A. Castellano told him caps of any size can be taken including plastic, aluminum and steel. He continued that very small caps will fall through recycle sorting machines and so this is a good alternative to collect all caps.

VIP/Website Articles and Content: M. Gunn suggested including the Recycle Coach App and R. Georgett said it was been in the last few issues so maybe the committee should wait to run it again. W. Harrison suggested a teaser to check the website and find out about recycling. There was discussion regarding how the website is our central source of information and has been greatly improved. R. Georgett said the committee had discussed having a communication and education plan and the Recycle Coach App was the first step. She continued adding other specific actions or items that the committee can act upon. W. Harrison suggested “what in the world is recycle coach” in the VIP. T. Rue said maybe the committee could send something like the West Amwell Recycling flier as it would be good education.

R. Georgett said the idea of sending a postcard was shared with the Township Staff and it was suggested that maybe it be added to the Tax Mailing. K. Ostrander asked if the additional cost of having something specific and separate about Recycling could be covered by clean communities and to check with K. Parsons to find out available space. R. Georgett asked if a subcommittee to determine what would go on a mailing would make sense. There was discussion regarding whether to work through this in the meeting quickly or have it done by a subcommittee and it was agreed that T. Rue, and R. Georgett would spear head this and solicit others to help. W. Harrison said it would need to be a subcommittee of 3 or less to avoid the need for public notice.

INVOICES: R. Georgett said the committee had approved through a motion at it’s February meeting the purchase of a zero waste box for caps in the amount of \$187.00. She continued that after discussion with the Township CFO, it would be acceptable for the Recycling Coordinator to sign Purchase Orders that had previously been approved by the committee through a motion. R. Georgett said the one invoice of the evening was an example of this and asked the committee for feedback. There was some discussion regarding this and W. Harrison agreed the Recycling Coordinator could sign Purchase Orders for items the committee had already approved through motion. **M. Gunn made a motion that was seconded by E. Johanson to approve one invoice. All members carried unanimously with no objection or abstention.**

CORRESPONDENCE – W. Harrison said the Recycle Resource magazine is distributed to the committee, and members should identify topics for discussion at the meeting. He continued that his

concern is about the off shoring of recycling. E. Johanson said that she buys recycling materials and when you do this others will follow. There was discussion regarding the topic including the fact that most recycling was sent out of the country, and the cost of handling recycled products is a concern as we aren't able to send to places like China. There was further discussion regarding our recycling vendor, and that Republic stated that they send items collected from the Township to the River Road facility.

NEW BUSINESS –

2018 Tonnage Report: R. Georgett said the Township Tonnage report has been submitted and is fully compliant. She continued that this year most of the data came through Hunterdon County and much is still coming in. R. Georgett said that once the final report is submitted at the end of June, she will report the details to the committee.

Adopt a Spot Program: E. Johanson suggested the committee look at the East Windsor program, and use Clean Communities funds to run an adopt the spot program in East Amwell. She continued it could be just making signs, advertising on the website and inviting groups to collect/clean up and have a grant for those who do. There was agreement that is a good idea and the committee will continue to discuss it next meeting. R. Georgett said the committee could identify specific public areas and/or street in town for this. E. Johanson said once people see others doing this, it would encourage others to do it as well. K. Ostrander suggested the committee look at information from Road Side clean up to select a few areas to focus on and run it once a quarter as a pilot.

FIX-IT Program: E. Johanson said this was an idea for the Committee to consider for communication and education and since it's late keep for discussion at the next meeting. K. Ostrander said that this is similar to what is done in Europe, and could be a good idea. W. Harrison asked if this was about changing labels throughout the county, and there was discussion about how there is opportunity for improvement of labeling with a significant cost.

Special Volunteer Appreciation Certificate: R. Georgett showed the samples of a new certificate for special volunteer acknowledgement and the committee could also keep the standard certificate when one is volunteering as required community service. T. Rue said the kids would like this, and K. Ostrander agreed saying having the Township stamp would be a nice also. There was discussion regarding purchasing color certificate paper that could be printed instead of the black background which can be costly to print. R. Georgett will check into purchasing color certificates so the committee could compare costs and decide which would be better.

ADD comments to Spring clean-up section. ****

OPEN TO PUBLIC –M. Gunn made a motion seconded by R. Georgett to open to the public. All members carried unanimously with no objection or abstention. Judi DiMaio said she has some thoughts; Earth Day's 50th Anniversary is next year, and are we doing anything about that? Ms. DiMaio continued saying she had coordinated a lot of recycling education that would bring many people to the table at events such as the Color Run. She continued showing pictures on her phone of adults wearing plastic bags to raise awareness that the average adult uses 700 plastic bags a year. Ms. DiMaio said there are also many "do you knows" such as telling kids they are wearing plastic bottles, this is what fleece is made from, which raise awareness and get people's attention.

Ms. DiMaio said she learned about Clean Up day through the website notifications, which is where she met T. Rue who invited her to this meeting. She continued by suggesting asking questions to bring people to the website rather than telling them something; and also the painting could be done by scouts or other groups and be fun. Ms. DiMaio asked if the Township does fishing line recycling and K. Ostrander said no. She continued saying there is a recycling opportunity for this, described the

collection container and that she works with the Coast Guard. Ms. DiMaio continued that Word and Publisher have good certificate frames.

W. Harrison asked Ms. DiMaio if she would be interested in joining the Committee, and Ms. DiMaio replied that she wants to feel the committee will accomplish something. W. Harrison spoke about the monthly Depot and walked through the process to submit a Citizen Leadership form which is on the website. K. Ostrander explained the discussion with the Township Committee for new volunteers. Ms. DiMaio said recycling programs must begin with education, and being able to answer individuals when they ask “what can I do”. K. Ostrander said the school does a good job with education about recycling. Ms. DiMaio said she has used puppets with the children and agrees they are a way to get to adults as well. T. Rue invited Ms. DiMaio to help with the content for mailing. R. Georgett will connect to set up a time to work on this together. W. Harrison thanked Ms. DiMaio for her input and said that the committee works together to get things done. He continued that Alison Castellano who wasn't present and Erica Johanson on the phone are both big contributors as well.

R. Georgett made a motion that was seconded by T. Rue to close to the public. All members carried unanimously with no objections or abstentions.

OPEN TO COMMITTEE – No Comment

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by M. Gunn which was seconded by T. Rue and carried unanimously with no objections or abstentions to adjourn at 9:18 p.m.

Rosemary Georgett, Recycling Coordinator