

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
RECYCLING COMMITTEE MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
December 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 December 10, 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, 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 cancel	11/12/19	12/10/19
Will Harrison	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	E		X	X
Alison Castellano	X	X	E	X	E	-	X	X	X		X	X
Erica Johanson	X*	E	X*	X*	X*	-	X	E	E		E	E
Tom Rue	E	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X		X	X
Mark Gunn	X	X	A	E	X	-	E	X	X		A	E
Chantal Napoleon	E	A	X	X	E	-	X	7:41	X		X	X
Kevin Ostrander	A	X	A	A	X	-	X	X	A		A	7:33
Susan Kadlec (new 12/2019)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – Seeing no members of the public present, T. Rue made a motion that was seconded by S. Kadlec to close to the public that was carried by all members with no objections or abstentions.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES - The minutes from the November 12, 2019 meeting were put forward and **A. Castellano made a motion that was seconded by T. Rue to accept the minutes that was carried with no objections or abstentions.**

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA –

- X. D. 2020 Recycling Committee budget
- IX.B. New Tech electronics recycling

REPORTS -

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

Depot Reports: December 2019 – The attached report was submitted by M. Gunn and summarized verbally by W. Harrison. W. Harrison said this is the second month that the dumpsters were completely full and have been almost full for several months. S. Kadlec was invited to participate in an upcoming Depot and be taught to lead one in the future. There was discussion regarding who would help at the January 2020 Depot and W. Harrison said he would contact some volunteers as well.



DEPOT LEAD ASSIGNMENTS

December 7, 2019	M. Gunn	Report provided
January 4, 2020	W. Harrison	
February 1, 2020	T. Rue	
March 7, 2020		
April 4, 2020		
May 2, 2020		
June 6, 2020		
July 4, 2020	W. Harrison	
August 1, 2020		
September 5, 2020		
October 3, 2020		
November 7, 2020		
December 5, 2020		

Township Committee Update: K. Ostrander said in October a resident asked why the grit yard was only open one Saturday a month. He continued saying that maybe the Recycling Committee could open it for a second Saturday each month. There was discussion regarding this and a suggestion that the committee try this in January for collecting holiday trees. S. Kadlec asked when the grit yard is open now and W. Harrison explained it's only open during weekdays when the DPW provides oversight and the first Saturday each month during Depot hours. K. Ostrander said the committee could do a few trials and see if there is traffic. He continued by suggesting that the Committee open the grit yard a second Saturday in January and A. Castellano said the Committee could also open a second weekend in March and April when residents begin cleaning up their yard. T. Rue said he will take care of opening the grit yard on Saturday January 11, 2020. A. Castellano said she will put the information on the Township website and Facebook page.

Styrofoam Recycling: T. Rue said there is a little to be bagged. A. Castellano said the building was re-inspected by the Fire Marshall and is good for another year. A. Castellano said she has asked the Township CFO if there are any funds that can be allocated to the Styrofoam genie machine being purchased by the school. W. Harrison said the State is considering banning plastic bags and Styrofoam and this needs to be considered. T. Rue said there was a focus on banning Styrofoam plate use in schools in the bill being considered. There was further discussion about ensuring that the school is aware of this bill and the difficulties that would be involved with banning Styrofoam.

TREX Recycling: C. Napoleon said the library staff has helped with sorting and has kept up collections for what she had sorted. A. Castellano said this is the fifth bench being sponsored since fall of 2018. A. Castellano said she contacted the High School Key Club, who do community service and some members can drive, to help any group that is sponsoring a bench but the Key Club has not responded. She continued that hopefully the Boy Scouts will do the next bench, and she will contact them. A. Castellano said she will follow up to see if there are "helper" groups to support those sponsoring benches, and C. Napoleon said it would be great to have helpers.

OLD BUSINESS -

Recycling Education/Communication:

R. Georgett said the topics on the education calendar for the coming three months are January – Solicit Recycling Volunteers and Make a New Year’s Resolution to Reduce/Reuse/Recycle as top tip; February – What NOT to Recycle and she received suggestions from Waste Management for this list; March – Buy “Reusable” items as well as information and dates for Road Side clean up and Spring clean-up. R. Georgett said the calendar will be kept on the agenda each month to review with the Committee. T. Rue said the sub-committee needs to meet again and it was agreed to meet immediately before the January Recycling meeting.

A Castellano asked what other than topics and material for the website and VIP the sub-committee is planning and C. Napoleon said planning of and participation in events to promote and educate around recycling such as Earth Day 50th Anniversary in April 2020. T. Rue said it will be important to formulate specific plans for events. T. Rue asked if Judi DiMao would still be helping and R. Georgett said if there is a specific event Judi would probably come to help present. T. Rue mentioned ideas for a Township Recycling mascot, such as a de-litter bug versus a litter bug, and this will be included for 2020. W. Harrison said the Historical Society does the East Amwell calendar, and A. Castellano said she saw a message regarding timing for placing ads in the calendar. There was discussion regarding what to include, and it was agreed that C. Napoleon, R. Georgett and A. Castellano would prepare four ads for the calendar that include Clean Communities educational material and will be paid for with Clean Communities funds.

A Castellano walked the Committee through the Township website setup for Recycling Committee making it easier to find information with subpages for Top Tips of the Month, Recycling Spotlight, Terra Cycle, TREX, and Recycle Coach. She continued that our current top tip is regarding straws, and she showed reusable straws made from grass that had been purchased on Amazon. A. Castellano said there will be a “top tip” and “spotlight” for each month on the website and Facebook pages and the content/educational material can be reused each year. She continued by asking the Committee to come up with ideas for topics and send them to both her and R. Georgett to be included in the plan. T. Rue said as an FYI for the committee, the NJ bill banning plastic had included straws as well but it was removed due to people with special needs objecting.

There was discussion regarding the various resources that make reusable straws, the ease of purchasing them, and that the committee could consider purchasing some as a giveaway during events in 2020. R. Georgett will send the link for The Spruce Eats website, and W. Harrison asked the committee to do additional research on reusable straws so that at the next committee meeting a decision on purchasing reusable straws can be finalized. C. Napoleon said she read that biodegradable items end up in landfills which are so tightly compacted that they don’t biodegrade, and all educational and communications should be clear that biodegradable items are for composting. R. Georgett said the Committee has discussed having municipal composting in the future and S. Kadlec said Duke Farms has great resources for this.

Foam Palace: A. Castellano said since last month J. Silverthorn, R. Wolfe, and M. Castellano have had further discussion regarding maintenance of Township buildings and she feels the foam palace should be included as part of that maintenance plan. A. Castellano continued that the foam palace needing maintenance is on their radar. There was discussion regarding what would be involved with the maintenance work. W. Harrison said maybe the old “snack shack” could be used if the foam palace can’t be used. T. Rue said if the Township Committee would purchase the paint and approve the Recycling Committee doing the painting, this could be resolved. A. Castellano said that J. Silverthorn has identified repairs needed on the Foam Palace prior to painting and so unfortunately, it’s not that straightforward. This will be kept on the agenda for follow up.

Recycle Coach (RC): R. Georgett explained the purpose of the RC app, where it can be found, and reminded the committee to please periodically enter random items into the RC app to help validate that the data is correct. Any corrections should be sent to R. Georgett and/or brought to the meeting. A. Castellano said this should also be an education “spotlight” story and a disclaimer can be added that RC app is a work in process and any errors should be reported to R. Georgett for correction. C. Napoleon agreed to do this as well as a spotlight on “wishful recyclers”.

Zero Waste Boxes: A. Castellano said they are going strong, and shared a conversation with a resident who came to depot and asked many great questions about recycling. There was discussion regarding the importance of having educated recyclers and this should be a focus in 2020.

Adopt A Spot Program: W. Harrison said to remove this from the agenda for now and it can be reconsidered in the future.

Hunterdon County Ident-a-Shred: R. Georgett said that the County has reconfigured this program and there is no longer an opportunity to hold a free, County sponsored event in East Amwell. She continued that East Amwell residents can participate in the Ident-a-Shred days held at the County Offices.

INVOICES: None

CORRESPONDENCE: There was discussion regarding the article circulated re: Dollywood. R. Georgett said Sevier County, TN has developed a program with single stream collection of trash and recyclables where very little goes to a landfill. She continued that the article says the County has purchased equipment for turning trash into compost, and separating recyclables and is only one of a dozen facilities around the world doing this. T. Rue said since there is a model for doing this, everyone should and it was agreed that this kind of program is aspirational.

NEW BUSINESS:

Recycling Committee Goals:

W. Harrison said the Committee should review the 2019 goals and come prepared to recommend any changes for 2020 at the reorganization meeting in January. He continued that adding TREX and other newer programs should be added clearly reflecting what the Committee wants to accomplish – with TREX the committee would spearhead and coordinate groups who would do the work for their project. A. Castellano said it has been a struggle to get students, and the parents who need to bring them, to come each month to handle Terra Cycle and that she has discussed this with Sharon Ernst at the school.

W. Harrison said the goal of filling vacancies on the recycling committee should be removed because the Township Committee appoints new members. He continued that the Committee goal of actively recruiting new members should stay. A. Castellano said various Committees need new members and the Township Committee is working on it. R. Georgett asked if the Committee is still monitoring recycling at the fields, which was goal 7 in 2019. W. Harrison asked if anyone does this when they are the Depot lead, and no one does. A. Castellano said there is so little use of the fields, there is not much of a need. W. Harrison said there is material in these cans and monitoring them is part of the Depot lead’s duties. W. Harrison will resend the Depot Lead responsibilities, and R. Georgett suggested moving this under item 1 - Depot related goals.

R. Georgett asked the Committee to consider having municipal composting possibly at the grit yard, which has been discussed by the Committee at prior meetings, as a 2020 goal and also emphasizing the “reduce” part of reduce/recycle/reuse. She said this could be built into educational material.

Motion was made by T. Rue which was seconded by C. Napoleon and carried unanimously with no objections or abstentions to hold the Recycling Committee Re-organization meeting on January 14, 2020.

W. Harrison said the Clean Up Day will be Saturday, April 25, 2020 and he will lead with A. Castellano. Road Side Clean Up will be the weekend prior on April 18, 2020. **A motion was made by T. Rue and seconded by A. Castellano to confirm these dates was carried unanimously with no objection or abstention.**

T. Rue said these dates need to be corrected on the recycling education calendar. A. Castellano said the date for Clean Up should be coordinated with the Township Yard Sale and she will recommend Parks and Recreation hold the Yard Sale on April 18th. Residents can then bring items left after the yard sale to Clean Up day. R. Georgett asked if the Recycling Committee was going to take responsibility for running Road Side clean up going forward and explained how she and T. Rue handled it in 2019. A. Castellano said R. Georgett could hand off the information to a new Road Side lead for 2020, and that lead can be confirmed at the January meeting.

Leads for 2020 Depots: W. Harrison said the leads should be identified a few months in advance but it may not be effective to schedule for the entire year.

OPEN TO PUBLIC – Seeing no members of the public present, C. Napoleon made a motion seconded by T. Rue to close to the public that was carried unanimously with no objection or abstention.

OPEN TO COMMITTEE – A. Castellano asked if the July depot should be held on the first Saturday, which is July 4th. W. Harrison said this has worked in the past, and he will lead it.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by A. Castellano which was seconded by T. Rue and carried unanimously with no objections or abstentions to adjourn at 9:07 p.m.

Rosemary Georgett, Recycling Coordinator