

**HOPE TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION and GREEN TEAM  
MINUTES  
June 16, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Monica Sobon.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT:**

Ms. Sobon read the "Open Public Meetings Act" Under the provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act", adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by publishing notice in the Express Times and the Star Gazette on February 5 and 6, 2015, respectively, and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township Bulletin Board. .

Present at this meeting were: Chairman, Monica Sobon, Vice Chair, Cathie LaBar and members: Virginia Caballero, Patty Maertens, Betsy Peterson and Jennifer Wallace. Absent were members: Ellen Benoit, Nancy Chambellan, John Lucas and Evan Rupff.

**MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting of April 21 and May 19, 2015 have been distributed to the members prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Wallace, seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes of April 21, 2015. By voice vote, all were in favor with Caballero abstaining. A motion was made by Wallace, seconded by LaBar to approve the minutes of May 19, 2015. By voice vote, all were in favor with Sobon and Maertens abstaining.

**OLD BUSINESS GRANTS:** The Trails Grant for ANJEC needs to be addressed. Sobon and Benoit have discussed moving forward. Sobon presented the program description to the group. Since the restoration of the path was not enough to get the grant Sobon noted that we included an educational component on invasive species at the lake. A discussion followed about what the first / next step is. Sobon noted that advertising the grant and the project is the first step. She presented a flyer that she would put around town and submit to the local media. Methods of getting volunteer help to get the path installed and maybe have an opportunity for residents to adopt a section of the park, remove the invasive species and replant something in its place, perhaps some of the trees we have left from the Green Fair. Various members noted that the trees are not difficult to plant.

The discussion followed regarding the use of volunteers and the identification of the invasive species. It was noted in the grant that Tom Gabel would be the one to identify the invasives. Monica suggested Bruce Barbor from Rutgers Extension Service would be a good choice as well, maybe using both since the area is so large. The marking of the invasive species was discussed as well. In wrapping up the discussion, it was noted that the advertisement needs to be done and get the invasives identified and get a date set for the delivery and spreading of the stone. The possibility of asking

the senior citizens to open the shed for snacks and water that day was discussed as well.

RECYCLING: The secretary had nothing new to report for this meeting.

FRACKING: It was noted that one hydrogeologist noted that our soils do not lend themselves to fracking. LaBar noted that the commission would still like the resolution and / or ordinance in support of other areas that would have an issue with fracking and to prohibit the piping of natural gas through the township. Maertens added that she felt that the Township Committee was still positive, encouraging the commission to continue their investigation of this process. She also added that the Township Committee is not interested in spending money on an ordinance. The commission members felt that it would be easier to convince the Township Committee to pass a resolution in support of the state-wide ban on fracking than it would to get them to pass an ordinance.

Peterson suggested that the subcommittee meet to re-write the Resolution supporting the state-wide ban and submitting it, once again, to the Township Committee. All agreed that that should be the next step.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT APPLICATION: The commission members reviewed the EIS submitted by the applicant. All agreed that it appeared that the applicant was greatly minimizing the effect that development of that sort would have on that piece of property from an environmental stand point. The commission members went over, item by item, the document that was submitted to the Board.

After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that the secretary should write another memo to the BOA addressing the commission's comments regarding the EIS.

NEW BUSINESS SUSTAINABLE JERSEY: The possibility of developing a sub-committee to work on recertification was discussed. It was decided to work on it as a commission. All agreed that it appears from the joint meeting that the Sustainable Jersey representatives indicated that they would be willing to work with the communities to attain points. Sobon encouraged everyone to get onto the Sustainable Jersey website and check out what has been done and what still needs to be done. She reminded everyone that the password is GOGREEN7. Sobon then noted that we need 150 points to recertify – she asked everyone to go online and come back next month with a listing of projects that we can get points for (already completed) and which projects we could accomplish to accrue more.

Sobon noted that someone approached her and questioned whether Hope Haircutters is zoned to do hair color at that location. A brief discussion was held in which the idea of washing those chemicals down the drain. No one seemed to have the answer to that. Wallace suggested that it was a zoning question. Sobon reported that someone had approached her about the fact that if they knew that she was going to be coloring hair, she would not have been allowed to open that establishment in that location.

**CORRESPONDENCE** Resource Recycling Magazine

Prior to adjournment, Sobon thanked Liesel Maertens for attending the meeting with her mother. Maertens asked anyone who eats avacados to save the skins and pits for Liesel, she uses them to dye wool. She recommended keeping them in the freezer.

**ADJOURNMENT** There being no further business before the commission, a motion was made by Wallace seconded by LaBar to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Linda Gabel**, secretary