

**MINUTES
HOPE TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
February 17, 2015**

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

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT:

The secretary 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 and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township Bulletin Board all on, February 5 and 6, 2015, respectively.

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

MINUTES The minutes of the meeting of January 20, 2015 have been distributed to the members prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Wallace, seconded by Benoit to approve the minutes as submitted. By voice vote, all were in favor with Lucas, Maertens and Peterson abstaining.

OLD BUSINESS Grants – Benoit noted that she sent a copy of the grant that we submitted last year for money to resurface the path at Swayze Mill, around to the members to look at. Did anyone have any suggestions for changes that need to be made other than the dates/time line? She also questioned whether Sunrise Farms would still be willing to help with the project. The secretary indicated that Sunrise Farms would be willing to help and would look over the budget to be sure that prices had not changed during the course of the year. A brief discussion was held during which time it was suggested that perhaps some of the wording could be changed to make the application just a little different from last year's. Perhaps stress the educational component by bringing in someone to help identify the invasive species? Benoit will work on this. Benoit noted that she will contact Kerry Miller to ask if she had any advice for resubmitting the application.

Recycling – The secretary had nothing new to report with regards to recycling. Sobon asked if the containers that the kids wanted for their wetlands project could be presented to them by the Mayor at the Green Fair. The secretary offered to check with the Mayor, but thought that he'd probably be willing to do that.

Fracking – Peterson reported that the Township Committee did not approve the resolution that we had submitted. The secretary noted that there was an issue with the mention of the trucking. The Township Committee wondered how you would be able to stop trucks that were associated with the gas industry as opposed to other tanker trucks. They were also concerned with interfering with interstate commerce laws.

After a lengthy discussion, the suggestion was made to write a letter to the Township Committee asking them to share with us their reasons for not wanting to pass the resolution as written so that the Commission could have the opportunity to rewrite parts of the resolution so that they could pass it in good conscience. They also asked the secretary to include in the letter the fact that the Commission will be working on an ordinance that they would like passed prohibiting fracking, underground piping and compression stations in Hope. The secretary agreed to write the letter. Peterson added that she would look into ordinances from other municipalities in an effort to create an ordinance for Hope. She also noted that she preferred that we not appear before the Township Committee until we were totally prepared.

Sobon reported that she had purchased the film "Groundswell Rising" and it was available for people to view. She noted that she spoke with the director and there was not a problem with individuals viewing the film as long as it was not being shown to a group, there were no licensing issues. Anyone who would like to view the film is welcomed to take it home and then bring it back to the Municipal Building for the next person who wants it to pick up.

The discussion on fracking continued with the question being raised of the possibility of getting grant monies for the writing of the ordinance to be looked into. The suggestion was made to look at Riverkeepers as a possible source for grant information. It was also noted that another good film on the subject of fracking was "Gasland".

GREEN FAIR: Sobon asked whether anyone had any preferences as to which of ANJEC's available displays would be best for our green fair. It was suggested that that the ones that included games would be best. Sobon then asked the secretary if she thought it would be possible to put a rain barrel at the Municipal Building. She was aware of a program, through Rutgers, that would put a rain barrel that would be used as an educational tool. The secretary will check with the Township Committee to see if the Municipal Building would be available for something like that. Concrete wash out systems were briefly discussed as someone had contacted Sobon about setting up a booth at the Green Fair.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the upcoming Green Fair. Sobon updated the contact sheet and shared that with the commission members. She reported that the letters were going out, by email, to local businesses along with a copy of the Town Ticket. The secretary reported that the e-waste and paper shredding were set, the decision just had to be made about where to put them. Last year, they were in the back of the building, but some people suggested that they be placed in the front so that people driving by could see what was going on.

GREEN TEAM: A short discussion followed about the creation of a Green Team. Members were encouraged to talk to family members and/or friends about considering joining the Green Team which will not meet every month but may meet as infrequently as 6 months out of the year depending on what is going on and what needs to be done.

The suggestion was made to put the word out at the Green Fair that we would be looking for new members of the Green Team.

CORRESPONDENCE The correspondence received during the past month was briefly discussed. There were no outstanding items needing attention at this time.

Just prior to adjournment, Sobon asked if we were supposed to do a year end report of activities of the Environmental Commission / Green Team. A brief discussion was held regarding this report and it was decided that it would be a good idea to put one together in case the commission is asked for one in the future. Sobon offered to put this together.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business before the commission, a motion was made by Wallace, seconded by Benoit to adjourn the meeting. By voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Gabel

secretary