

MINUTES
HOPE TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION and GREEN TEAM
March 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 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 Chairman Cathie LaBar and members: Ellen Benoit, Virginia Caballero, Patty Maertens, Evan Rupff and Jennifer Wallace. Absent were members John Lucas and Betsy Peterson.

MINUTES The minutes of the meeting of February 17, 2015 have been distributed to the members prior to this meeting. It was mentioned that in the minutes the word "welcomed" is used in the second paragraph of page 2 and it should be changed to "welcome". A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Wallace, seconded by Benoit. By voice vote all were in favor with Caballero abstaining.

OLD BUSINESS GRANTS: Benoit has sent the Open Space Grant to each member to look over. All agreed that it seemed complete. After speaking with ANJEC's Kerry Miller, Benoit came away with some suggestions for making our application more attractive to ANJEC. A lengthy discussion was held during which time the following points were mentioned: Surface of the path – why stone dust as opposed to RCA? Will the RCA be removed?; Could we institute an invasive species aspect to this grant, making it more interesting?; Could we put out a flyer identifying the invasive species present at the park?: Could we do a walk with an expert who could point out the invasive and natural species – perhaps at the picnic?; Could we get an invasive species expert to do this – it would have to be in-kind as we have a minimum amount of money to spend; Could / should we highlight the recreational aspect of the lake, fishing, boating, kayaking, goose hunting, fishing derby – trail provides access to all of these other activities.

Benoit took all of the suggestions and will do her best to incorporate them into the grant. The deadline for submission of the grant application along with letters of support and in-kind services is April 1.

RECYCLING: The secretary had nothing new to report.

FRACKING: In Peterson's absence, the secretary reported that the Township committee is not interested in passing this resolution or ordinance at this time because

Hope doesn't have the proper geology to make it lucrative to drill for natural gas. The secretary was directed to write a memo to the Township Committee reminding them that the resolution involves more than just the actual drilling and it is important that this be passed. Commission members added that they would like to see an ordinance passed prohibiting everything to do with fracking in Hope and that members of our commission would be interested in attending the next Township Committee meeting on March 25th to discuss this topic. It was decided that the members of the fracking subcommittee would be the ones to attend the Township Committee meeting – that would be Betsy Peterson, Cathie LaBar and Patty Maertens. All agreed that they could attend.

GREEN FAIR: The Commission members then moved on to the Green Fair – scheduled for Saturday April 11th between 10:00 and 1:00. A lengthy discussion was held during which time the following items were reviewed and discussed:

- *Tonnage Grant money can be used to order signs for the Green Fair – the secretary will contact Chad to get these done;
- *In case of rain, we will bring everything inside (if it's torrential) and set up easy-ups outside if it's just light or sporadic.
- *In case of bad weather, Freecycle can be moved into the Grange;
- *Gabel and LaBar will bring coffee pots – one will be already going for Clean Communities – the other will get started later in the morning. These will be set up in the foyer;
- *The Book Nook should be installed prior to the Fair;
- *April 1 is the deadline for any business to be included on the Town Ticket;
- *Would it be possible to include a tour of the Distillery or the Long House on that day?;
- *The secretary will send a letter of invitation to the 3 students who made the presentation to the Commission on the wetlands area behind the school. The secretary indicated that the mayor was agreeable to presenting the students with the recycling containers on the day of the Fair, and that would happen at 11:00am.
- *The secretary reported that she applied to the State Forestry Division for free seedlings to give away the day of the Green Fair. It seems that we will be getting approximately 2000 seedlings to be given away that day.
- *Members should make every attempt to be at the municipal building on Friday afternoon, any time after 1:00pm, for set up and plan to arrive around 9:00am on Saturday morning;

*The secretary reported that a company called Millennium from Flanders will be participating this year collecting textiles / clothing, curtains, shoes as well as old toys, housewares, bicycles, etc...

A final review of where everything was going to be located, who would be helping with which portion and who was going to bring what was discussed and finalized.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gabel

Linda Gabel, secretary