

MINUTES
HOPE TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION and GREEN TEAM
April 21, 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, John Lucas, Patty Maertens, Betsy Peterson, Evan Rupff and Jennifer Wallace. Absent was member: Virginia Caballero

MINUTES The minutes of the meeting of March 17, 2015 have been distributed to the members prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Wallace, seconded by LaBar to approve the minutes as submitted. By voice vote, all were in favor with Lucas and Peterson abstaining.

Sobon started the meeting by thanking the group for working so hard on everything that we had going on over the past few months: The Green Fair; the grant application and ; the fracking resolution. There was a lot going on and everyone did their part and we were able to pull everything together.

OLD BUSINESS GRANTS: Benoit reported that April 22 is the date that the ANJEC Grant should be announced. She noted that in a conversation with an ANJEC official it was mentioned that if we did not get funding for our proposed projects there it would be because the park is only open to Hope residents and not open to the public. A brief discussion was held regarding that particular policy.

RECYCLING: The secretary had nothing new to report other than it was Recycling Tonnage Grant time and she was busy preparing those. She indicated the tonnage seems to be going down (by a little bit) each year. A brief discussion was held about why that would be happening.

GREEN FAIR: A lengthy discussion was held regarding the Green Fair that was held on April 12th. Sobon conservatively estimated that 175 people were in attendance. In addition, the following items were brought up and discussed.

- Sobon raised the question of whether or not we wanted to have the Green Fair every year or every other year. The suggestion was made to perhaps just do the e-waste, shredding and textile recycling in the years in between. All agreed that it would be good to continue, for now, to hold the fair every year. It was noted

that Easter in 2016 is in March so this same weekend next year (April 9, 2016) would work.

- Sobon asked if there were any of the vendors that we should consider not asking back. The only name that came up was Aunt Mary's Dog House. She did not take everything that was left for her and she left the fair a little early.
- Should we continue the use of the Town Ticket? It doesn't appear that anyone, other than the Commission members were using them. The commission members decided to give that more thought and vote on it in June.

Sobon then brought up the Arbor Day celebration at the school. It will be held on Friday at 10:00am if anyone can attend. It was decided that we had enough seedlings left to be able to bag them up and give each child a seedling with instructions to take home on Arbor Day.

FRACKING: The Fracking subcommittee attended the Township Committee meeting on April 8th. It was reported that the Township Committee is not concerned with this issue because right now, it is not geologically feasible to drill here. The point was raised that 10 years ago, Pennsylvania was considered not geologically feasible for drilling, and yet, it's going on there now. A brief discussion was held during which it was noted that the Township Committee had asked the subcommittee to look into a few things with regards to fracking and the movement of the oil and return to meet with them again.

RECERTIFICATION: Sobon brought up the Sustainable Jersey recertification process that is needs to be completed by July of 2016. She encouraged all the commission members to log on to our Sustainable Jersey page (password: GOGREEN7) to check out our "municipal dashboard" for projects and points that we can attempt / acquire. Sobon noted that if anyone wants to check it out, let her know and she will put their email address in to allow them access. She noted that as far as she can tell, we have approximately 70 points lined up so far. She also noted that 2 people were interested in joining the Green Team, Jan Wargo and Dolores Cherichella.

MAY 19th: The meeting on May 19th is scheduled as a joint meeting with neighboring municipalities and representatives of Sustainable Jersey. The secretary noted that she had gotten some response but was planning to send out another, follow up letter to see if we could remind, encourage people to attend. Sobon added that Lianne Markus had wanted to bring her students to that meeting as well. All agreed that another night would be better as the Sustainable Jersey people would be setting up and we would need to prepare for the joint meeting. It was suggested to Sobon that she offer Markus the June meeting or perhaps the meeting with the Township Committee where the 8th graders take the places of the elected officials, or even a BOE meeting to make their presentation.

CORRESPONDENCE At this point, the commission members reviewed the applications that are currently before the planning and zoning boards:

- ✓ Planning Board application for St. John's Serbian Orthodox Church property on SilverLake Rd. This request is for permission to put a cemetery on the property.

The Commission members reviewed the plans and their only concern is whether the church group would be performing anything other than traditional burials requiring that they follow NJ State regulations regarding the burial of human remains.

- ✓ Planning Board application for Robert and Jason May for a subdivision of a 2 acre parcel on Bridgeville Rd. After reviewing the plans, the commission members had no comments or concerns about this application.
- ✓ Zoning Board of Adjustment application for variances pertaining to a proposed truck stop / gas station and convenience store on Blairstown Rd. The commission members reviewed the plans and offered several comments / concerns:
 - Precedent was set years ago when Spartan Oil tried to get variances to put a gas station directly across the street and were denied on the basis of possible contamination of aquifer and wetlands.
 - What about light pollution from lights proposed to be 60' in the air.
 - Noise pollution is another concern from vehicular traffic of that magnitude.
 - Emissions (air pollution) from the same vehicular traffic.
 - Possible contamination of Beaver Brook as well as neighboring wells.
 - Applicant should be made to submit both an NRI and EIS. Neither of these important documents should be waived.
 - According to our ERI, this property sits on a limestone aquifer. Can this geology support this kind of development / activity?
 - Finally ... the applicant should be made to prove that this project would pose no threat to the aquifer. If there is even a question as to where the aquifer is located should be reason enough to deny the variances.

All agreed that this type of development on that parcel of property is not a "Hope" type of thing, but in addition to that, there were too many environmental concerns without even going into aesthetics or traffic issues to make it even considerable. The secretary will write the memo to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and run it by the commission members before submitting it to their secretary.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business before the Commission, a motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Benoit to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Gabel

Secretary