

**MINUTES**  
**HOPE TOWNSHIP**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION and GREEN TEAM**  
**January 17, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by the secretary.

**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, 2016 and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township Bulletin Board. .

Present at this meeting were: Members: Ellen Benoit (via telephone), Virginia Caballero, Patty Maertens, Monica Sobon, Jennifer Wallace (Green Team), Betsy Peterson, Lacey DiTondo.

**REORGANIZATION:** The secretary opened the floor to nominations for the position of Chairman. A motion was made by DiTondo, seconded by Peterson to re-elect Sobon as chairman. Sobon accepted. By voice vote, all were in favor.

At this point, the secretary turned the meeting over to the chairman. Sobon opened the floor to nominations for the position of Vice Chair. A motion was made by Sobon, seconded by Maertens to elect Benoit as Vice Chair. Benoit accepted. By voice vote all were in favor.

The meeting dates for 2017 and reorganization for 2019 were reviewed by the commission members. It was decided to add one more meeting in April just before the Green Fair in case the commission members decided that it was needed. That date will be April 4, 2017. A time change to the meetings was also discussed by the Commission and it was decided that 7 PM will be the new meeting time. By voice vote, all were in favor.

**MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting of December 20, 2016 have been distributed to the members prior to this meeting. By voice vote, all were in favor of approving the minutes.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The amount of money in the tonnage account was discussed (\$291) as it relates to much of what the EC is able to do as far as give aways at the Appreciation Dinner and in getting things in place for the Green Fair (i.e., the shredding truck). She noted that the Township Committee has already stated they will help to fund the EC's giveaways and that she will be asking for help in paying for the shredding truck. A discussion took place about a mailing she received from NJDEP regarding the state of drought that New Jersey is in. The mailing enclosed information on the water emergency and also Toilet Tank Leak Detectors which Sobon thought might make a good give away at the Appreciation Dinner (being packaged in "junk mail" envelopes such as envelopes people receive to send their payments through the mail) packaged

up nicely with some labels. Sobon also asked people to think about a slogan for the give aways. Sobon also discussed the fact that the ERI updates were a top priority this year. She also asked that anyone who wanted to be a liaison to other Commissions/Committees in the Township let themselves be known so that all the Committees and Commissions are knowledgeable about what is going on in the community. DiTondo volunteered to be the Recycling Coordinator.

**GREEN FAIR:** A lengthy discussion was held regarding the upcoming Green Fair. Revamping the Town Ticket was discussed and decided upon by the Commission. Discussion of the raffle and how one would be entitled to participate in it took place, as well as discussions on give-aways and displaying the t-shirt bags in order for people attending the Green Fair to be able to choose one and go from “station to station” and pick up their freebies, etc. The raffle prizes are being worked on and it is hopeful that we can get a few gift baskets donated as well as a few other types of prizes. A discussion occurred about the possibility of getting LED lightbulbs donated from Home Depot or Lowes (point brought up by Annette Morse – member of the public and 55+ Club in attendance).

**NEW BUSINESS** A New Jersey Watershed Ambassador, Taran Sayal, attended the meeting and talked about the projects she is working on in her capacity as Ambassador. She is working in Warren, Sussex, Hunterdon and Morris Counties (Watershed Area #1). They work on projects in unison with Townships. She explained that she is undertaking a few different types of projects and asked about the Commission’s interest in participating in them. She noted she is working on a Rain Barrel Workshop where she would come and teach how to conduct a Rain Barrel Workshop of our own. She is also working with the NJ Tree Foundation where trees, bushes and seeds are donated and wants to partner up to get trees and saplings planted in areas around the Township. Application deadline to take part in the tree/sapling giveaway is January 30, 2017. They are received around April 1. She is also open to organizing and helping with any of Hope Township’s projects and it was discussed that possibly a clean up of Beaver Creek might be a good project to undertake. DiTondo offered to work with Sayal on the EC’s behalf.

DiTondo also spoke about recycling containers to be set up at the Appreciation Dinner and Town Grange. Since we receive tonnage money for recyclables and not many people know this, she thought it would be a great way to not only collect them but to make people aware that the Township benefit’s from recyclables.

**GAS STATION APPLICATION:** Discussion took place regarding a letter memorandum that the EC drafted to be sent to the Planning Board regarding the application before it. The EC wants the PB to make sure that a new EIS is done (per Township ordinance) for the application. There is concern with a gas station going into an area with clean and pristine water and the EC wants to make certain that everything is done as per Township guidelines in the undertaking of this application. A letter was attached to the

memorandum to please read the letter out loud at the January 30, 2017 PB meeting so that all in attendance understand the concerns of the people of the Township of Hope as well as the concerns of the EC. It was also discussed that Mrs. Marcus' "Green Team" (5<sup>th</sup> graders) attend a PB meeting relating to the clean water aspect of it. Sobon emailed Mrs. Marcus to ask about her interest in doing so.

The EC Annual Report was also handed out and the budget was discussed. Sobon will be putting together a budget for submission to the Township Committee.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

**Robin Keggan,** secretary