

MINUTES
HOPE TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION and GREEN TEAM
April 18, 2017

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 New Jersey Herald on January 24, 2017 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 Ellen Benoit (via telephone), Lacey DiTondo, Patty Maertens, Evan Rupff, Annette Morse, John Lucas, Betsy Peterson. Absent was Virginia Caballero.

MINUTES The minutes of the meeting of March 18, 2017 meeting have been distributed to the members prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Lucas, seconded by DiTondo, to approve the minutes. By voice vote, all were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Recycling/Tonnage – A reminder to all EC members that when traveling to Home Depot or Lowes to stop by the building and bring any recycling collected (i.e., "squiggly" light bulbs) that these establishments take for recycle.

ERI Update – Ellen updated on Sustainable Jersey. Hasn't heard anything since we learned about the delayed decision being made on the grant awards due to overwhelming response/applications. We should hear by mid to late April as to the outcome of the awards.

It was noted that maybe all EC members should take a look at the current ERI and if there's a section you are interested in or want to update, take it and see what you can complete yourself so that it is at least partially updated in order to ask for help if necessary (in case of failure of Hope Township to receive an award of a grant for help with ERI updates).

Green Fair – Discussed use of the left over flyers. Monica stated she is going to send them home through the school with a "see you next year" label.

Attendance at the Green Fair – 40 tables manned by 1 or 2 people. Best guestimate as to people in attendance at the 2017 Fair is somewhere between 400-500 people.

Shredding – No number as of yet (pounds shredded) but Mike felt that as much shredding occurred this year as last.

Project Medicine Drop – went up substantially this year.

Discussion was made re: advertising for next year's Fair. It was suggested that a banner be made and hung in the same place as the banner is hung for the Christmas Craft Market. Hour changes were discussed as well for the time of the Fair. 9-1 seemed to be the preferred timeframe by all in attendance at the EC meeting.

PTA Food – discussion was had about the food available at the Fair. It was noted that healthier foods need to be available at the Fair (many vendors there felt the same as noted on their surveys).

Re-use of signs that the town collects off the roadside (i.e., advertising, election signs) was discussed and John Lucas and Lacey DiTondo volunteered to find out more about having the signs revamped after collection for use by the EC.

Gas Station – 5/1 is the next scheduled PB meeting. Please attend if you can.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion was made re: the EC's request for the EIS to be updated by the applicant of the gas station before the Planning Board. It was determined that another letter from the EC should be sent to perhaps the Township attorney/Township engineer asking the status of our request and when we can anticipate the letter being read into the record. (as a sidenote after the meeting, the EC secretary prepared a letter and sent to Chairman and EC liaison George Beatty. Mr. Beatty reached out to the PB Chairperson before the letter was sent asking the status of EC's EIS request. It was determined that another letter from the EC was not necessary at this juncture and that perhaps a member of the EC should be there at the next meeting to read our letter into the record as the PB is well aware of our request.)

Earth Day – Invited Annette to sit in front of the Health Food Store in Blairstown to hand out recycled t-shirts/bags.

Emerald Ash Borer – Brief discussion was had regarding this and the information available on the website.

Follow up will be made on Wildflower garden at Swayze Mill Park.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin L. Keggan

Secretary