

MINUTES
HOPE TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION and GREEN TEAM
January 19, 2016

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, Virginia Caballero, Cathie LaBar, John Lucas, Patty Maertens, Evan Rupff, Monica Sobon, Jennifer Wallace.

REORGANIZATION: The secretary opened the floor to nominations for the position of Chairman. A motion was made by LaBar, seconded by Wallace to elect Sobon as chairman. 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 Benoit to elect LaBar as Vice Chair. By voice vote all were in favor.

The meeting dates for 2016 and reorganization for 2017 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 5, 2016. A motion was made to approve the meeting dates for the upcoming year by LaBar, seconded by Lucas. By voice vote, all were in favor.

MINUTES The minutes of the meeting of November 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 Benoit and Lucas abstaining.

OLD BUSINESS GRANTS: Benoit reported that the ANJEC Grant is complete, the second progress report has been submitted. She added that, after speaking with Kerri Miller, she realized that since the grant project was complete, we could submit all of our information, in kind hours and receipts and receive the balance of the grant money – we wouldn't have to wait until the end of the grant period. Benoit offered to look into doing that and the secretary offered to get the in-kind hours and receipts from the Municipal Clerk.

RECYCLING: The secretary reported that there was nothing new with regards to recycling for this month.

GREEN FAIR: A lengthy discussion was held regarding the upcoming Green Fair. It was decided to continue to offer the same “events” at the Green Fair that we usually do. The secretary noted that the E-waste and Paper shredding were in place again. A short discussion was held regarding whether to use Millennium again for textile recycling or to go with another operation that would be closer to home. It was decided that our experience with Millennium was a good one and we should stick with that. The secretary will set that up. It was decided to continue with the Freecycle event and to attempt to get an animal rescue group involved. Sobon asked whether it would be appropriate and allowable for the Sheriff’s Office to hold a medicine drop. The secretary felt that would be fine. Sobon will set that up as well.

The secretary announced that we were approached about the possibility of holding a seedling give away again. She noted that there is no possible way, this year, of having the seedlings available the day of the fair. After giving it some thought, the secretary wondered if we could possibly offer, vouchers the day of the fair for seedlings to be picked up at a later date. Everyone thought that that would be a good idea. The secretary will contact the state and see if that would be allowable. She added that this year, we should consider requesting no more than 500 seedlings. All agreed that number would be good. It was also decided to continue with the Town Ticket. Sobon felt that it was not difficult to do and if only a few people used them for the local businesses, it was worth it.

With regards to the give-aways, the secretary showed the group the bags and handles that were purchased and passed around an example of the informational insert. It was decided that the movie “Bag It” would be shown at the Green Fair in order to have our bag give-away earn us Sustainable Jersey points. The secretary noted that she has found the movie online and will purchase it for the group.

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY: Sobon suggested that everyone look over the list of projects and pick one or two that they would like to take on. She noted that we would need to have this done by May ready to submit by June. A brief discussion was held during which time the various projects were touched upon.

NEW BUSINESS At this point, the topic of a new member to fill the seat left vacant by Betsy Peterson’s resignation was discussed. It was noted that Peterson served as the cross-over member from the Planning Board. By ordinance, there must be a cross-over member from the Planning Board on the Environmental Commission. That will make filling that vacancy quite difficult. The secretary was directed to send a letter to Peterson thanking her for her years of service. They also suggested she send a letter to the Township Committee asking for guidance on filling the vacancy.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Gabel, secretary