

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

**MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting of June 16, 2015 have been distributed to the members prior to this meeting. It was noted that the word "avocados" was spelled incorrectly. The secretary will make that change. A motion was made to approve the minutes as amended by Wallace, seconded by LaBar. By voice vote all were in favor with Benoit and Rupff abstaining.

**OLD BUSINESS GRANTS:** Sobon noted that the commission needed to get the grant work done in time for the picnic on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Tom Gabel was present to discuss the mechanics of getting the path installed. He noted that the machines will be doing most of the work. He added that with two trucks and two tractors, there should only be a minimum of hand raking that will need to be done.

With regards to the Invasive Species Walk portion of the Grant, Gabel suggested not doing the walk on the day of the picnic but, instead, having the walk on a Saturday, later in the Fall and having people sign up at the Environmental Commission table at the picnic. He added that they can give their phone number and/or email address and Tom will call or email them to remind them of the walk prior to the date.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the grant project. Possible dates for laying down the path were chosen ... August 11, August 14 and August 21 were suggested. The secretary will check with Don to see which of those dates worked for him. The question was also raised whether the park could be locked at night while the stone dust was being stored there if we are not able to finish in one day. The secretary will check on that as well. Sobon offered to create a flyer to circulate to request volunteers for the path project.

**RECYCLING:** It was noted, that Warren County will begin offering tire recycling.

**FRACKING:** LaBar reported that when the subcommittee met with the Township Committee the DEP report on Fracking had just come out that morning. The DEP did not give the green light to all fracking activities but made it sound like it wasn't such a terrible thing, there was nothing to be frightened about. It was noted that some people jump all over that. For this reason, the Township Committee was not that interested in passing a resolution, let alone an ordinance banning fracking activities in the Township. A discussion followed during which it was decided that the subcommittee will re-work the resolution to support the state-wide ban on Fracking and related activities. It was also noted that at least two of the committeemen had taken the time to watch the "Groundswell Rising" movie and seem to be open to discussion about it.

**SUSTAINABLE JERSEY:** At this point, the discussion turned to Sustainable Jersey Recertification. Sobon reviewed the number of points and the categories that must be covered for recertification. She asked if individual members would consider taking the lead on various projects. She then handed out folders to each individual who agreed to spearhead that particular project. All agreed that if everyone did a little toward the recertification, we should be in good shape by the June, 2016 deadline.

**Zoning Board of Adjustment:** It was noted that the Environmental Commission has submitted two memos to the Board of Adjustment and has gotten no response to date. It was added that the next BOA meeting will be held on August 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.

**PICNIC:** In the discussion of this year's picnic, it was suggested that we push the medicine drop at the State Police Barracks. We could use that as one of the projects for recertification for Sustainable Jersey. The secretary noted that she had some posters and flyers for the medicine drop that she would bring to the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS** It was noted that "Moth Night" would be held in Liberty Township the next evening, Wednesday, July 22, 2015.

**NOTES FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:** Sobon offered an opportunity to recycle the K-Cups that are used for Keurig coffee makers. She found a company that would charge for the boxes that would be used to recycle the small plastic cups. A brief discussion was held. No decision was made but the thought was that perhaps trying one of the small boxes might not be a bad idea to see if there was interest in that type of recycling. Wallace noted that when they recycled juice boxes at the school, it became a problem when the juice boxes began to smell.

**CORRESPONDENCE** The correspondence was briefly reviewed. During this discussion, it was noted that Jaime Murray from Knowlton contacted us by email regarding joining in on a paper shredding event. It was decided that someone would answer her and indicate that we would not be holding another shredding event in the near future but we would be holding one in conjunction with our Green Fair again in April of 2016. Knowlton, or any other municipality would be welcome to join in on that if they wanted by sharing the cost and advertising the event in their municipality.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

**Linda Gabel**

Secretary, Hope Twp. Environmental Commission