

MINUTES
HOPE TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION and GREEN TEAM
August 18, 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, Patty Maertens and Evan Rupff. Absent were members: Virginia Caballero, John Lucas, Betsy Peterson and Jennifer Wallace

MINUTES The minutes of the meeting of July 21, 2015 have been distributed to the members prior to this meeting. A motion was made by LaBar, seconded by Benoit to approve the minutes as submitted. By voice vote, all were in favor

OLD BUSINESS Grants: Sobon noted that the path looks wonderful. When we realized that we were going to run short of stone dust, Don got authorization to purchase more. The rest of the path will be laid down on Friday, August 21st from 8:00 – 12:00 noon again. Sobon noted that George Beatty indicated that he would be attending on Friday and asked that Sobon give him a call on Thursday to remind him.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding Swayze Mill during which the following items were brought up and discussed: The Invasive Species informational walk/ talk will be promoted at the picnic and held on another day in the fall; There will be a ribbon cutting-type ceremony during the picnic; Placing memorial benches, donated by individuals, groups or families, around the lake; Cleaning up various sections around the lake – the exercise stations, the standpipe area and possibly allowing individuals, families or groups to "adopt" certain sections and keep it maintained and clear of invasive plants.

A brief discussion was held about how to thank the people who have helped with the path project. All decided that a simple thank you note to Tom, Becky, Liesl and Frank would be appropriate.

The possibility of compiling a Green Team specifically to work on projects at Swayze Mill Park was discussed. It was suggested that a sign, asking for volunteers, be placed on the bulletin board at the park to attract the people who use the park and who may not be aware of what goes on by way of the website or facebook.

RECYCLING: Sobon noted that Kuerig is now offering K-cup recycling for less than the other company was offering. The secretary indicated that she would rather it not take place at the municipal building. The secretary also added that print cartridges were no longer being recycled at the municipal building. It was noted that print cartridges can be recycled at Staples.

FRACKING: LaBar stated that there was nothing new to report with regards to the Fracking resolution.

MEDICINE DROP: Sobon noted that she contacted the County Sheriff's office about the medicine drop. They indicated to Sobon that they now have a portable collection box that would be available for the picnic. The Sheriff's office then called and indicated to Sobon that two officers from their department would be available to monitor the container on the day of the picnic. When Sobon called the municipal building to inform them that this was available for the picnic, she was told that it would not be welcomed because there would be children at the picnic. It was decided that the secretary should write a memo to the township committee and indicate why it would be beneficial to have the medicine drop at the picnic. Sobon also mentioned that the Sheriff's office was also agreeable to coming to an Over 55 meeting and possibly even attending the Green Fair.

PICNIC: It was reported that the Picnic will be held on Saturday, September 12 from 1:00pm – 5:00pm. Everyone should plan on being there by 12:30 to set up the table. A brief discussion was held about what would be available at the table this year. It was suggested that we could promote the Book Nook by bringing books with us to the picnic that would be available for residents to take on that day. It was suggested that some little flyer or sticker be included in each book indicating that the book is from the Book Nook and that it is located at the Municipal Building.

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY: Sobon asked if anyone looked at their projects for Sustainable Jersey re-certification. A brief discussion was held and it was decided to continue this discussion at the next meeting, after the picnic. Rupff raised a question about why we pursue this certification. The suggestion was offered that we become eligible for grants to do other projects.

GREEN FAIR: Sobon offered the option of holding the next Green Fair at the fire house. After a brief discussion, it was decided to hold off making a decision on that for a later date.

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