

MINUTES
HOPE TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION and GREEN TEAM
September 15, 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, Betsy Peterson, Evan Rupff and Jennifer Wallace. Absent were members: Virginia Caballero and John Lucas.

MINUTES The minutes of the meeting of August 18, 2015 have been distributed to the members prior to this meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes by LaBar, seconded by Benoit. By voice vote, all were in favor with Maertens and Wallace abstaining.

OLD BUSINESS GRANTS: Benoit reported that we had a progress report due on September 8th and even though it was a little late, she felt that we were able to include more information, after the picnic, in the report. She passed around copies of the progress report that she had composed and the commission members reviewed it and made whatever changes they felt needed to be made before it was submitted to ANJEC.

The invasive species walk was briefly discussed. Tom Gabel gave the commission several dates that he would be available to do the walk at Swayze Mill. A brief discussion was held and Saturday, October 24th was chosen with Sunday, October 25th as a bad weather date.

It was decided that letters of appreciation should be sent to: Don, Rich, Becky, Frank, Liesl and Brian for their help with the path installation.

RECYCLING: The secretary reported that the Warren County Household Hazardous Waste collection would be held on Sunday, September 27th from 9:00am – 11:00am at the landfill.

FRACKING: Peterson noted that there was nothing new to report. She added that the subcommittee would be meeting to develop a simply worded statement / resolution supporting a statewide and/or nationwide ban on fracking and presenting that to the Township Committee for their discussion and, hopefully, approval.

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY: The discussion then moved to Sustainable Jersey. The various projects were reviewed and members were encouraged to take on one or more projects in an effort to become recertified in June of 2016. Sobon encouraged everyone to go on the Sustainable Jersey website and check out where we were with regards to recertification. She noted that the password for Sustainable Jersey is GOGREEN7.

The projects that the commission is considering for recertification right now are: Green Team; Green Fair; Shredding Event; Medicine Drop (which, it was noted, went well at the picnic and thank you notes should be sent to both the Sheriff's office as well as the Township Committee); Anti Idling; Reusable Bag education project; and Freecycle (should we take this on, once a week, once a month?).

GREEN FAIR: A brief discussion was held regarding the next Green Fair and what our options were in case of rain. The possible use of the Fire House and the School were discussed. In the case of the school, we would have to come up with the rental fee (used for janitorial services). Could we possibly use Tonnage Grant monies for that fee? It was decided that, if there were tonnage grant money left, it could be used for that rental fee.

While on the subject of the Green Fair, it was decided that letter should go out to surrounding municipalities to see if any would be interested in joining us by participating in the Green Fair. That would determine just how much space would be needed and it would also allow other municipalities to share in the total cost of the Fair. The secretary will work on that letter and have it available for the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS **Green Team:** It was noted that we have someone interested in joining the Green Team. It was also noted that it seems that she would be a good Green Team member. A brief discussion was held regarding the re-creation of a Green Team which would consist of persons other than environmental commission members and how we could work it this time in order to make it effective and beneficial to the Commission. How would we advertise for members? Do members have to be residents of Hope? (It was decided that they did not). Can the Green Team raise money? It was decided that if anyone were interested in joining the Green Team that they could be invited to a monthly meeting, we could hold the Green Team meeting at the very beginning and discuss what projects we would be considering.

GIVE AWAYS: A brief discussion was held regarding what items we could give, this year as a give-away at the appreciation dinner. It was decided that we should try to consider what items we could get Sustainable Jersey points for to be put toward our recertification. It was suggested that everyone come back to next month's meeting with some ideas.

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

Respectfully submitted, **Linda Gabel** secretary