

**MINUTES**  
**HOPE TOWNSHIP**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION and GREEN TEAM**  
**October 20, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by the vice chairman, Cathie LaBar

***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: Vice Chairman, Cathie LaBar and members: Ellen Benoit, Virginia Caballero, Patty Maertens, Evan Rupff and Jennifer Wallace. Absent was Chairman Monica Sobon and members: Betsy Peterson, John Lucas.

**MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting of, September 15, 2015 have been distributed to the members prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Wallace, seconded by Benoit to approve the minutes as submitted. By voice vote all were in favor with Caballero abstaining.

**OLD BUSINESS** GRANTS: Benoit reported that the ANJEC progress report for the path project at Swayze Mill has been submitted and the final report is not due for some time. A brief discussion was held regarding the completion of the project. The invasive species walk is scheduled to take place on Saturday, October 24 at 11:00am.

RECYCLING: The secretary had nothing to report at this time

FRACKING: The revised fracking resolution was distributed to all the members. All felt that it was well done and should be submitted to the Township Committee for approval. The suggestion was made to submit the revised resolution to the Township Committee along with a memo to review it and contact us to have the subcommittee come in when they are ready to discuss it.

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY: The projects that we are preparing to submit for recertification were discussed as well as some additional projects. A brief discussion was held during which time commission members reported difficulty getting on to the Sustainable Jersey site using their email addresses. With regards to the reusable bags project, one of the requirements of the project is that the movie "Bag It" needs to be shown. Wallace made the suggestion that the movie could be shown during the Green Fair in one corner of the room or one of the other rooms. The Fleet Inventory and Recycled Paper projects were two of the others that were discussed.

While discussing the Sustainable Jersey recertification, the secretary reported that she had drafted a letter to the surrounding municipalities regarding joining with our commission on the Green Fair for 2016. She apologized for not having the letter there to discuss but promised to email it for everyone's approval and then get it mailed out within the next week.

**NEW BUSINESS** The subject of benches along the path at Swayze Mill was discussed. Various materials were discussed as possible recommendations for the benches which could be donated by individuals, families or groups in town. Wood, pressure treated wood and metal were discussed. It was noted that the benches would need to be secured somehow to prevent vandalism. It was also suggested that help by the road foreman would be needed to choose the location of the benches and the material to be used around the benches, to be sure that maintenance at the park would not be any more difficult with the inclusion of the benches.

The topic of give-aways at the appreciation dinner was briefly discussed. It was noted that a reusable bag would be an option if we decided to do the reusable bag project. The secretary presented a different type of reusable bag that is an organizer type of bag for the trunk. The secretary will look into where those bags could be purchased. The idea of a water bottle (perhaps with a filter system?) was mentioned as well as a crank type charger in case of power outage.

**GREEN TEAM:** A brief discussion was held regarding new Green Team members. Hopefully the person who expressed an interest in joining the Green Team will be able to attend next month's meeting.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

**Linda Gabel**

secretary