

MINUTES
HOPE TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION and GREEN TEAM
November 17, 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 and members: Virginia Caballero, Patty Maertens, Evan Rupff and Jennifer Wallace (late). Absent was Vice Chair, Cathie LaBar and members: Ellen Benoit, John Lucas and Betsy Peterson.

MINUTES The minutes of the meeting of October 20, 2015 have been distributed to the members prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Maertens, seconded by Rupff to approve the minutes as submitted. By voice vote all were in favor with Sobon abstaining.

OLD BUSINESS Grants: Sobon reported that the ANJEC grant has been completed and suggested that we might be able to add additional, educational component by creating a handout about the path and invasive species. A brief discussion was held about thoughts on invasives ... yes, they can move in and take over an area but they serve a purpose, they control soil erosion. Because of that, if the invasives are removed from an area, something else needs to be replanted in order to prevent soil erosion. Sobon added that the handouts could be given out at the Green Fair and the picnic. She also noted that the final report needs to be submitted by May, 2016.

Recycling: The secretary had nothing new to report.

Sobon reported that Lianne Markus from the Hope Elementary School and her school Green Team are working, this year, on the white nose disease which is affecting the bat population.

Fracking: The secretary reported that the Township Committee has received the revised Fracking resolution along with a memo to look over the resolution and contact the commission when they are ready to continue the discussion.

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY: Sobon urged everyone to supply her with their email addresses and she would give them access to our portion of the Sustainable Jersey website. A brief discussion was held during which time the topic of the use of Styrofoam in the school was brought up. It was noted that the school contracts the

cafeteria business to a vendor and the vendor makes the arrangements for staffing and use of materials being used to serve the food.

The discussion then turned to the projects that would be used toward recertification. The "Bag It" project is being considered with this year's give aways for the dinner being either a trunk organizer kind of bag or a canvas reusable bag and/or a plastic handle to carry multiple bags. The secretary will look into that and have some options and prices for the next meeting.

GREEN FAIR: It was noted that letters went out to the surrounding municipalities about 4 weeks ago and we have not heard from any of the townships.

NEW BUSINESS Sobon asked if we could get information on the shredding event ... how many people? How much tonnage? Can hard drives be shredded? The secretary will check into that before the next meeting.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Gabel

secretary