

**MINUTES
HOPE TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION and GREEN TEAM
MINUTES JANUARY 29, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by the secretary, Linda Gabel

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 "Star Gazette" and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township Bulletin Board all on January 26, 2014.

Present at this meeting were: Members: John Lucas, Christine Rusin, Monica Sobon, Mike Taylor, Jennifer Wallace. Absent were members: Christine Beatty, Ellen Benoit, Nancy Chambellan, Cathie LaBar and Betsy Peterson.

REORGANIZATION: At this time the secretary asked for nominations for the position of Chairman of the Commission. A motion was made by Sobon, seconded by Wallace to nominate Taylor as Chairman. By voice vote all were in favor with Rusin abstaining.

The secretary then turned the meeting over to the Chairman. Taylor asked for nominations for the position of Vice Chair. A motion was made by Lucas, seconded by Wallace to elect Sobon as Vice Chair. By voice vote, all were in favor with Rusin abstaining.

The Commission members then reviewed the meeting dates for 2014. All seemed to be correct for the third Tuesday of each month.

MINUTES The minutes of the meeting of October 15, 2013 have been distributed to the members prior to this meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes as submitted by Wallace, seconded by Lucas. By voice vote, all were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS The secretary brought out the lunch bags that the commission decided on for the Appreciation Dinner and handed out an informational insert that she created. She asked for thoughts on the informational insert – additions, corrections, deletions. The members present thought that the insert was good the way it was. Wallace suggested that she is willing to create a cookie in any shape that the commission members wanted to give away with the bags at the dinner. All thought that a cookie in the shape of the Moravian Star with the recycling triangle in the center would be a good shape for the cookie. Wallace agreed to see what she could do.

Spring Event. Sobon suggested naming the event something along the lines of Hope Green(s) Land Fair would be appropriate as the Township was once named Green(s) Land. She suggested that the Commission pick a date as it's easier to move forward if we have a date chosen. It was noted that late March or early/mid April would

be best considering the weather. After a brief discussion, April 12th was the date that would be best if the Community Center was available. The secretary noted that unless someone had booked the Community Center for a party, the building would be available if that was the date that everyone agreed on. It was decided that April 12th would be the commission's first choice, March 29th would be their second choice.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the activities for that day. The following suggestions were made and discussed: Including the school – getting the school on board is key. It was suggested that Taylor speak with LeAnn Markus as she has expressed an interest already, and then bringing in the principal and the art teacher; Putting the word out for vendors to participate – perhaps solar, wind, geo-thermal vendors as well as craft vendors such as Karen White who makes jewelry out of old silverware, or informational vendors such as Engel Auto Care where they take used motor oil and use it to heat their building; Including Belvidere, Harmony and White Townships in the event; The possibility of including E-waste recycling as well as paper shredding and perhaps even a medicine collection (sheriff's office must be contacted for that) ; A scavenger hunt type of card for kids to have punched each time they witness or participate in one of the projects/events of the day; and including a Clean Communities Clean up day event in the morning to get people out early. The timing of the event was also discussed – it was suggested that either 11:00am – 4:00pm or Noon – 4:00pm would be best. The subject of funding this day was also briefly discussed. There is the possibility of getting grant money to help. Taylor will look into that for the next meeting.

Rusin announced that a new website HOPEZERO will be launched on March 1st of this year. This site will be a marketing / destination “bring-people-to-Hope” type of website. She offered to advertise the Green Fair on the website for free for this commission.

The secretary passed out the books from the Sustainable Jersey award ceremony at the League of Municipalities Convention in November. The suggestion was made to invite Mayor McDonough to our next meeting to discuss that ceremony with us and bring the plaque. It was also suggested a picture could be taken of the Mayor with the Green Team and the plaque to place on the website.

GRANTS: Taylor noted that he and Benoit ran out of time for submitting the WalMart Sustainable Jersey Grant. He suggested that we continue to work on the grant narratives so that they will be ready to submit for the next round. He also mentioned the possibility of recycling the grant narratives/application to fit the ANJEC grants for this year.

RECYCLING: The Secretary noted that she had nothing really new to report this month. Sobon asked if the town could use any more recycling containers – there were containers available through a KAB grant program. Wallace questioned who was responsible for emptying the recycling container at the Community Center? She reported that she noticed that for several weeks it has been filled to overflowing and it

never seems to get emptied. The secretary will check on that. The discussion focused on the problem of getting the proper items in the proper containers and having those containers emptied. It was suggested that perhaps the baseball/softball coaches could attend one of our monthly meetings to discuss recycling at the fields. The secretary will check with the Sport's Director to see if that would be possible and will report back next month.

Rusin noted that she was looking for a recycling sticker for the recycling bucket that is put out curbside. When the bucket gets old and gets thrown out, the sticker, of course goes with it. The secretary noted that someone could probably call Sanico to get another sticker and Sobon noted that she thought you could even get a container from Sanico.

NEW BUSINESS Someone mentioned that it appeared that the path around Swayze Mill had been plowed during the first snow storm. The commission members were concerned because it seems that the RCP that was used to surface the path has been strewn around. The thought was that when the snow melts, the path will be muddy. The secretary offered to check with the Road Supervisor but noted that the Road crew normally does not plow the path.

BUDGET: The secretary noted that the Township Committee will shortly begin working on their budget for 2014 and she asked what the commission members would like to ask for this year. It was suggested that was ask for \$500.00 again this year and note to the Committee that our dues to ANJEC are \$290.00 and we are planning to hold the Spring Event and will need money for advertising/flyers, prizes, food and other various items with regards to that day.

VOUCHERS ANJEC – 2014 Annual Membership Dues \$290.00
A motion was made by Wallace, seconded by Lucas to approve this voucher. By voice vote, all were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business before the Commission, a motion was made by Wallace, seconded by Lucas to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

Linda Gabel

Linda Gabel, secretary