

**MINUTES  
HOPE TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
February 18, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by the Vice Chair, 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 "Star Gazette" and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township Bulletin Board all on February 14, 2014.

Present at this meeting were: Vice Chair, Monica Sobon and members: Ellen Benoit, John Lucas, Cathie LaBar, Tim McDonough, Chris Rusin and Jennifer Wallace. Absent were: Chairman Mike Taylor and members: Chris Beatty, Nancy Chambellan, Betsy Peterson.

**MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting of January 29, 2014 have been distributed to the members prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Wallace, seconded by Lucas to approve the minutes as submitted. By voice vote, all were in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS** Mayor McDonough was present at this meeting to discuss the Sustainable Jersey Luncheon that took place at the League of Municipalities Convention in November. McDonough commented that he was pleased and proud to represent Hope as one of only two municipalities in Warren County to receive Sustainable Jersey Certification, the other township being Mansfield. McDonough also noted that Donna Drewes mentioned that she would be willing to come up to Hope and sit down with the Team to discuss possible future projects and grants for Sustainable Jersey. Mr. McDonough gave the group a copy of their certification report which outlines all of the projects that were completed in order to obtain the bronze certification. He also noted that Ms. Drewes suggested that the Commission/Team consider keeping the momentum going by continuing to work toward their recertification.

Rusin asked McDonough for some feedback from the Township Committee as to what projects they would like the Team to pursue. It was noted that the path around Swayze Mill Lake needs to be resurfaced and that this group was applied last year and was not successful getting that grant – perhaps the next round.

Wallace asked the Mayor if he would consider writing a letter in support of the ANJEC grants that are in danger of being discontinued. McDonough agreed to write the letter and asked for a copy of the sample letter

**OLD BUSINESS GRANTS:** Benoit reported that there is an ANJEC open space grant for \$1500 with no match and 80 hours of inkind / time. She noted that the deadline for

this grant application is April 19<sup>th</sup>. That gives the group a little more time to pull something together. The possibility of resubmitting the Pathway Project application was briefly discussed.

At this time, a lengthy discussion was held regarding the Green Fair being planned for Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. **The following items were brought up, discussed and decided upon for that day:**

- \* The event will be called the Hope Go Green Fair – a logo is needed;
- \* The Community Center is available for that day for use by the group;
- \* LaBar has contacted her solar energy (lease option) connection and is waiting for word from his supervisor;
- \* Other speakers will be contacted regarding other energy sources as well as someone from Invasive Plants of America Society;
- \* It was decided that the fair would run from 11:00am – 4:00pm with speakers every 15 minutes between 11:00am and 1:00pm;
- \* The paper shredding event has been set up and there is a strong possibility that there will be an e-waste event at the same time;
- \* Jim Glorio, an artist and acquaintance of Benoit, has agreed to judge the recycled art contest;
- \* SWAP event could be held outside if the weather is nice and we are able to block off Cedar and Walnut Streets;
- \* The Team will request that Cedar and Walnut Streets be closed off for that and Burgdorff's and Hope Haircutter's will be alerted that this will take place;
- \* An agenda will be created showing what's going on at different times during the course of the day;
- \* A tour of the new Distillery Building will be added to the day as well as, hopefully, tours of the First Hope Bank and the Long House (recycling and reusing old buildings);
- \* There will be a table set up for non-profit groups: H.O.P.E.; Churches; 55+; the Cemetery Association, Girl and Boy Scouts; Chamber of Commerce;

**Those items still *outstanding* with regards to this event:**

- \* Participation by other townships – Taylor to contact Belvidere and White?
- \* The possibility of getting on WRNJ in Hackettstown to be interviewed regarding the Fair;
- \* Having Brian Kathenes do an “Antiques Roadshow” type of event;
- \* School involvement – recycled art contest;
- \* Scavenger Hunt type of punch card “game”;

It was noted that everything needs to be completely set for the next meeting. We need to know who will be participating in each part of the day and where they'll be set up / when they'll be speaking / what accessories they would need (ie: tables, projection screen, chairs etc.) A brief discussion centered around prizes for the recycled art contest. The possibility of giving a “prize” in addition to a ribbon for the winners was mentioned. Some suggestions for prizes were: Land of Make Believe Tickets; a dinner or pizza from the Mediterranean;

Rusin questioned whether any Sunshine Laws would be violated if the commission met in between meetings. The secretary noted any “sub” committees could meet as long as it’s not more than 4 people (which would constitute a quorum). The commission members decided who would be responsible for which items: Rusin - Chamber of Commerce / Fulton Bank; LaBar - First Hope Bank; Wallace – Girl Scouts /Engel Auto Care (used motor oil heating) / Karen White (recycled jewelry); Gabel – E-Waste / Shredding / Distillery Tours; Taylor – School (Sobon will reach out to him to see where he stands with the school contact) / French fry car;

The commission members went through the letter to residents and organizations about the fair and re-worded several parts. The secretary will have the letters printed up on Township letterhead and available for anyone to pick up to take to businesses when they approach them about participating in the day.

Sobon noted that she would put a working list for the April 12<sup>th</sup> event on Drop Box. She explained what drop box was and noted that she would put the list there so that everyone could access it and make adjustments to it.

**CORRESPONDENCE** Resource Recycling Magazine was offered to the members of the group to take home to read.

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Linda Gabel*  
secretary