

MINUTES
HOPE TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION and GREEN TEAM
April 15, 2014

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mike Taylor

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

MINUTES The minutes of the meeting of March 18, 2014 have been distributed to the members prior to this meeting. A motion was made by LaBar, seconded by Rusin to approve the minutes as submitted. By voice vote, all were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS Go Green Fair: A lengthy discussion was held about the Go Green Fair that was held on April 12. The following suggestions / recommendations came out of that discussion:

- ✓ The name of the event, Hope Go Green Fair, might indicate to people that it is only for Hope residents. Perhaps the commission should consider changing the name of the event.
- ✓ Use some of the commission's line item for advertising.
- ✓ Consider partnering with other townships. Letters can be sent out in the fall for the fair that will take place in the Spring.
- ✓ Might we consider a mini-green fair at the picnic? Further discussion on this topic brought the decision that we should simply have a table at the picnic and let the Green Fair remain the Green Fair in the spring.
- ✓ The Freecycle swap meet was not successful. Should we consider holding a regular flea market on that day?
- ✓ AWSOM – (animal rescue) was very popular – we should invite them again.
- ✓ Perhaps begin the day earlier.
- ✓ Shorten the length of time that the fair takes place.
- ✓ Somehow find a way to put the shredding and e-waste up front, park in the back.
- ✓ Host a bar-b-que (free food) and some kind of music on that day.
- ✓ The Town Ticket was somewhat successful – perhaps the expiration dates on the coupons could be extended so that they are not good for just that day or a couple days, but maybe a couple weeks?

- ✓ Choose the date well in advance Perhaps hold the event on the same weekend each year? This year it was the second Saturday in April. Next year that date would be April 11th, 2015. It does not conflict with the Easter Holiday.
- ✓ Expand the children's component. Begin talking it up in the schools much earlier and perhaps partner with the other participating Township's schools to get a lot of student participation.
- ✓ Steve Linden – an artist from PA makes moving things from recycled products. Consider inviting him to display some of his creations.
- ✓ Do not use Styrofoam for the free coffee.

At this time, Rusin had pictures from the Green Fair that she projected on to the wall for the commission members to see.

Benoit reported that the ANJEC grant application for the resurfacing of the path around Swayze Mill was submitted. We should be notified by April 24th whether or not we were awarded the grant. She also noted that she will look into the next round of Sustainable Jersey Grants.

The secretary noted that there is nothing new to report with regards to recycling. Taylor noted that the kids in the school are very upset about the number of bottles laying around the fields. Taylor suggested to Lianne Markus that there is a Sustainable Jersey for schools that the kids might want to get involved in. She indicated that they might look into that. Taylor thought it would be great for the school Green Team to partner with our Green Team in the future.

NEW BUSINESS A lengthy discussion was held about what to do at the picnic this year ... what could make the table better, greener? Taylor asked everyone to look at the Sustainable Jersey website for ideas for "greening the fair". A suggestion was also made to have paper cups made up with a "green" message on it for use during the course of the day. It was suggested that everyone come back to the meeting in May with ideas for the picnic.

Taylor reported that with regards to recertifying for Sustainable Jersey we can submit our projects as we go along, have them accepted by Sustainable Jersey and move on so that we have an idea of where we are as we go along. It was also noted that we can certify at a higher level. It was also suggested that perhaps we can submit our projects and then hold out the last 10 points so as not to recertify too early and start that 3 year clock ticking again.

CORRESPONDENCE Resource Recycling Magazine.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Gabel, secretary