

MINUTES
HOPE TOWNSHIP
GREEN TEAM
June 17, 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 and Chris Rusin. Absent were members: Cathie LaBar, John Lucas, Betsy Peterson and Jennifer Wallace

MINUTES The minutes of the meeting of May 20th have been distributed to the members prior to this meeting. As there was no quorum at the May meeting, the minutes do not have to be voted on, but were written up strictly as notes from that meeting.

The suggestion was made to seek out new members for the Environmental Commission and Green Team. The suggestion was made that some of the parents who came with the children to the last meeting might be interested.

OLD BUSINESS A brief discussion was held about signage that we might want to order with this year's budget for next year's (and future year's) green fair. The suggestion was made to purchase a sign with changeable letters. The thought was that perhaps a grant could be applied for to purchase this type of sign due to the expense. The suggestion was also made to purchase the small "yard" signs that could be put around or larger signs that could be attached to the sandwich board signs, directing people to the green fair. The secretary noted that there is a sign crisis right now in the village area and we would have to be careful about what kind of signs we consider purchasing. The possibility of a temporary sign with changeable letters is one option.

Sobon reminded Taylor that he will put together something for facebook outlining what the students wanted for their wetlands project, signage, plant material etc... Taylor noted that he remembered and he would definitely still be doing this with the Hope students.

NEW BUSINESS Jennifer Pennucci was present at this meeting to discuss the commission's interest in using the "Book Nook" that she and her family created and presented at the Green Fair. She noted that they approached the school about placing it somewhere on the school grounds but they were not interested.

A discussion followed in which the commission members, all in agreement that it would be a good thing to have, decided that the Municipal Building would be a good location as it is close to the road, well lit at night, convenient and often occupied so that people would feel free to come and borrow or donate books. The secretary was instructed to draft a letter to the Township Committee requesting their permission and suggestion for placement of the box.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the Green Fair for 2015. April 11 is the date that would correspond with this year's date and not interfere with the Easter holiday. The commission members would have to decide on a time for the fair - 10:00am –1:00pm was suggested. Once the date and time were set, it was decided that the E-waste and paper shredder should be locked in for that date and time. The prospect of having food and music were also introduced and briefly discussed. Sobon noted that she had a connection for music – the Institute of Sound, out of Hackettstown. It was also suggested that the commission contact other township's environmental commission and green teams as soon as the date and time were set.

The discussion then moved to the picnic. It was thought that the picnic would be a great opportunity to lure future members to the Environmental Commission and/or Green Team. The suggestion was made to, perhaps, have something different at the picnic ... an expert on invasive species to do a plant walk around the park? Someone from the Audobon Assoc. to lead a bird walk? ... A cooking demonstration with locally grown produce? Any of these things could be done early in the day, before the picnic gets into full swing.

Rusin suggested that the members take a look at the "Field Guide for New Jersey" as a possibility for prizes, or give aways.

CORRESPONDENCE Chairman Taylor's letter of resignation was accepted with regret.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business before the commission, a motion was made by Rusin, seconded by Benoit to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Gabel

Linda Gabel, secretary