

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

The meeting was called to order by the vice 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 "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, Cathie LaBar, Betsy Peterson, Christine Rusin and Jennifer Wallace. Absent was member, John Lucas.

MINUTES The minutes of the meeting of June 17, 2014 have been distributed to the members prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Rusin, seconded by Benoit to approve the messages as submitted. By voice vote, all were in favor with Wallace, LaBar and Peterson abstaining.

OLD BUSINESS A brief discussion was held on signage that could be purchased by the Commission for the next Green Fair. It was decided to continue the discussion next month and make a decision about which signs to buy by the end of the year.

At this time, the secretary opened the floor to nominations for the position of chairman. Monica Sobon was nominated by Peterson, seconded by Benoit. By voice vote all were in favor with Rusin abstaining.

Peterson then nominated Benoit for the position of Vice Chair, Sobon seconded that nomination. By voice vote, all were in favor with Rusin abstaining.

The secretary then reported that the Township Committee approved the installation of the Book Nook being donated by the Pennucci family. The secretary will contact Jennifer Pennucci and make arrangements for her to meet with the road foreman at the Municipal Building to get that installed.

GRANTS: Benoit noted that she had nothing new to report but that she would look at the Sustainable Jersey site to see if there is anything coming up that we might be able to apply for.

RECYCLING: The secretary reported nothing new with regards to recycling.

NEW BUSINESS A lengthy discussion was held regarding the information forwarded to the commission members on Fracking. Peterson noted that though it is not here right now, it might become a problem in the future. Having something in place now might prevent problems in the future with New Jersey serving as the pipeline for natural gas coming from other areas to the east coast, compression stations would be needed and installed and those stations emit dangerous gasses. The commission agreed that it would like to see Hope and all of Warren County protected from this. A resolution should specify the underground piping, compression stations and all related activities.

The conversation then turned to the movie Groundswell Rising. Peterson noted that it is an excellent movie that everyone should see. She noted that Jamie Corbett (Knowlton Environmental Commission) suggested that there be a screening for all residents of Warren County to make them aware of the dangers.

The discussion ended with Peterson offering to get more information and the secretary indicating that she would be happy to begin to tweak the ordinance in preparation for further commission member input and presentation to the Township Committee.

GREEN FAIR: It was decided that the Green Fair would be held on April 11th 2015 between the hours of 10:00am and 1:00pm. The secretary will move on securing the E-waste and paper shredding for that day. A lengthy discussion was held during which time it was decided that the letters to businesses should go out early. The secretary agreed to work on the letter and have it ready for the August meeting. The following items were also discussed: getting advertising out earlier; presenting the green fair to the school to get them on board with science and art being the main focus. With regards to the school, it was suggested that someone approach the principal and vice principal now as curriculum is being established and also create a letter for each teacher explaining the green fair / green living and asking them to include sustainable, green projects into their curriculum for the 2014 – 2015 year.

TOWNSHIP PICNIC: The Township Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, September 20th. A discussion was held regarding what the Commission wanted to do this year. Suggestions were walks around the lake involving either invasive species or birds. The idea of a scavenger hunt was also discussed. Sobon and LaBar agreed to work on that aspect of the picnic.

CORRESPONDENCE The secretary noted that Resource Recycling magazine was available if anyone wanted to take it home.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Gabel, secretary