

MINUTES
HOPE TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION and GREEN TEAM
October 21, 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: Chairman, Monica Sobon, Vice Chair, Ellen Benoit and members: Cathie LaBar, Betsy Peterson, Chris Rusin and Jennifer Wallace. Absent was member, John Lucas. Also present at this meeting was soon-to-be member, Pat Maertens.

MINUTES The minutes of the meeting of July 15, 2014 have been distributed to the members prior to this meeting. It was noted that there were two corrections to the minutes. The word "messages" should be replaced with the word "minutes" in "approved the minutes as submitted". Also under New Business, Peterson pointed out that in the minutes it notes that Jamie Corbett suggested that a screening of the fracking movie, Groundswell Rising, be shown to all the residents of Warren County. Peterson noted that it should read, "a screening should be held for all Warren County Environmental Commission members". A motion was made to approve the minutes as amended by Rusin, seconded by Wallace. By voice vote all were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS Sobon reported that the picnic went very well. She added that 15 people had come by and answered the questionnaire about Freecycling in Hope (Sobon had sent results of that survey to the members prior to this meeting). She asked for suggestions about what to do for next year's picnic? Perhaps having someone come and present a walk around the lake on invasive species? If we decide what we want to do early enough, we might not have problems getting the people we need to help us. All agreed that the Commission had a great spot at the picnic.

Sobon then asked how the Book Nook was coming along. The secretary responded that she had notified both parties (that being Don Whitmore, DPW and Jen Pennucci) and they have not yet coordinated to get the nook placed at the Municipal Building.

GRANTS: Benoit reported that Long Valley received a \$10,000 grant, though she was unsure of what that was for. A brief discussion was held regarding the possibility of, once again, going after a grant for the Swayze Mill Park path. The question was also raised again, about coordinating with other townships on the Sustainable Jersey points. It was suggested that if different members could afford one

more evening out a month to attend a different township's environmental commission meeting, perhaps we could get some cooperation on some of our upcoming events. LaBar offered to attend Liberty Township's Environmental Commission meetings, and Sobon tentatively agreed to try to attend the Belvidere meetings.

RECYCLING: The secretary reported that the free Recycling Containers that the County offered have arrived at the County Building and we will be notified when we could send someone to pick them up. A brief discussion was held about the possibility of presenting the Hope School students with the recycling containers at a meeting with pictures taken and sent to the paper.

FRACKING: Peterson reported that she saw the Fracking movie at Genesis farm. She noted that the movie was OK but she felt that the discussion afterward was more beneficial. A discussion was held about Fracking and Peterson noted that the EPA report is very difficult / complicated to obtain, and that the Township resolution is essential. She added that Princeton recently passed a resolution prohibiting fracking there. The current resolution to be proposed to the Township Committee was reviewed and it was decided that it needs to be changed slightly due to the fact that December, 2014 (the date when the EPA report was due to come out and the resolution would, essentially, expire) is right around the corner. The secretary will reword the last portion of the resolution for approval at the next meeting.

GREEN FAIR: A brief discussion was held regarding the Green Fair. It had been decided that the fair would be held on Saturday, April 11, 2015 between the hours of 10:00am and 1:00pm. The suggestion was made to change the name to Go Green with Hope. The secretary was asked to make arrangements for the E-waste and paper shredding on that day between those hours.

A very brief discussion was held regarding putting blurbs / small articles into the Panther Prints. Some people did it last year but were unsure if the articles ever made it into print. Sobon noted that it would be an avenue for us to get the word out about different things. Wallace added that the email address is pantherprints@hopeelem.org.

At this point Patty Maertens indicated that she is definitely interested in joining the Environmental Commission. The secretary informed her that she would need to contact Mary Pat and attend one Township Committee meeting. She will be appointed at that time.

Sobon brought up the idea of a Hope Township Freecycle page that would be separate from the Environmental Commission / Green Team Facebook page. All thought that was a good idea. The discussion followed about where to meet to make the swap, at the Municipal Building on the night of a meeting? At one of the local antique stores? It was decided that we should just back out of that part of it and let the two individuals figure out where to meet to make the trade.

NEW BUSINESS: Peterson informed the group that there is interest in the property out near the park and ride that appeared on the Planning Board agenda. She added that a gas station and truck stop with convenience store was proposed for that site. The project was removed from the Planning Board and sent over to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. A brief discussion was held in which it was noted that there is an aquifer that needs to be protected in that area. All remembered when Spartan Oil wanted to put a station at the old Nathan's site (where the Mediterranean Diner) is now. That was turned down due to the location of the aquifer.

A question was raised as to whether we could tap into our younger residents to serve as members of the Commission – say, High School age? The secretary will check on that.

CORRESPONDENCE The Commission members reviewed an application to the Zoning Board for Peter Jonsson who is seeking permission to put up a barn / detached garage in his front yard. After reviewing the plans, the commission members all agreed that there seemed to be no environmental issues that were obvious to them. The secretary will pass that along to the Zoning Board secretary. The secretary added that we were notified that a Letter of Interpretation was applied for on that property.

The remaining correspondence was briefly reviewed.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Gabel

Linda Gabel, secretary