

**MINUTES  
HOPE TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION and GREEN TEAM  
December 16, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by the 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 and members: Virginia Caballero, Cathie LaBar, Patty Maertens, Betsy Peterson, Evan Rupff, Chris Rusin and Jennifer Wallace. Absent: Ellen Benoit, Nancy Chambellan, John Lucas

**MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting of October 21, 2014 have been distributed to the members prior to this meeting. A motion was made by LaBar, seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes as submitted. By voice vote, all were in favor with Caballero, Maertens and Rupff abstaining.

**OLD BUSINESS** Sobon reported that Benoit mentioned to her that she is looking into trail grants and Sustainable Jersey Grants. She also noted that Frelinghuysen got a \$10,000 grant from WalMart for the purpose of redoing one of their trails.

Recycling – The secretary reported that she reached out to the County regarding the recycling containers. She has heard nothing back and will contact them again.

Sobon started on the Green Fair by noting that there is a new logo and name – "Go Green with Hope". She also suggested that a letter focusing on "spring cleaning" would be a way to get people interested and involved in the Green Fair. She noted that her thought was to encourage people to get rid of things through free-cycle, paper shredding and e-waste – thus the reference to "spring cleaning". Sobon noted that she went through the contact list from last year to determine who would want to participate again this year.

At this point, the secretary suggested that since Mr. DeCarolus, Township Committeeman and Environmental Commission member from Frelinghuysen was present at the meeting, the commission members should hear what he had to say. Mr. DeCarolus noted that Frelinghuysen had begun trying to attain Sustainable Jersey Certification, but gave it up when they were required to achieve 150 points instead of 100, and the Agenda 21 question was raised by several residents. His purpose for being at this meeting was twofold: 1) to see if the certification was really beneficial to the township and 2) to see if Frelinghuysen could partner with Hope to attain the points needed to attain the certification.

A lengthy discussion was held during which several points were brought up: Hope is at approximately the same level as Frelinghuysen with regards to financial availability and volunteerism, Hope was able to achieve the 150 points, Frelinghuysen should be able to do it too; Commission members were unsure of whether Frelinghuysen would be able to pair up with Hope as Hope has already achieved it's certification and Frelinghuysen would be seeking to reach the certification level; it would be beneficial to both towns if they would be able to meet together with a representative from Sustainable Jersey to discuss with them what can and cannot be done; the Environmental Commission will keep Frelinghuysen informed as to what's going on.

At this point, Mr. DeCarolis left the meeting and a brief discussion was held during which time it was decided to put off the joint meeting until May or June, with the idea that all three of the meetings, January, February and March, would be needed to get the Green Fair up and running. It was also decided that representatives of Sustainable Jersey should be invited to the meeting in May or June as well as the Environmental Commissions of other surrounding townships, in addition to Frelinghuysen.

A very brief discussion took place in which Agenda 21 was explained as a UN backed initiative to make the country sustainable. Some people feel that the government will end up controlling what the municipalities do if they become certified by Sustainable Jersey, thinking it's an arm of Agenda 21.

**NEW BUSINESS** At this time, Sobon asked the Environmental Commission members to go around and introduce themselves to the 3 new members of the Commission. After that was completed, the new members introduced themselves to the group. Hard copies of the ERI were given out to the new members to look over.

Slipping back into **Old Business** the commission continued the discussion on the Green Fair scheduled for April 11, 2015 to be held between the hours of 10:00am and 1:00pm. The secretary noted that the paper shredding was set up and she emailed the contact for the e-waste but had not heard back yet, she would follow up on that to secure the date with them.

Sobon noted that the Panther Prints was offering free business card sized ads in their publications – it was suggested that we could put an ad in for Green Team members with the purpose of building the Green Team so that it is separate from the Environmental Commission.

Sobon noted that the letter is ready to go out to those people who participated last year and any one that commission members thought would be interested.

**FRACKING** – Peterson brought up the possibility of creating a sub-committee for the purpose of fine tuning the Fracking resolution so it could be ready for presentation to the Township Committee. A brief discussion was held in which it was noted that our resolution needs to be as strong as it can be and must include all aspects of Fracking ... the actual act of Fracking as well as the trucking and piping of the gas through the

township. A motion was made to set up the subcommittee to develop the Fracking Resolution by Wallace, seconded by LaBar. Roll Call: Rupff-yes, Wallace-yes, LaBar-yes, Maertens-yes, Peterson-yes, Sobon-yes, Caballero-yes.

It was noted that the sub-committee cannot be made up of more than 3 people in order to alleviate the need for advertisement, secretary and minutes. It was decided that the people involved in the sub-committee would be Peterson, Maertens and LaBar with Peterson as the chair.

A short discussion was held during which it was decided the giveaways for the Appreciation Dinner this year would be reusable shopping bags that pack down really small to carry in a pocket or a purse. The message will be a reinforcement of the types of items that should be reused and can be recycled right here in Hope, and it was suggested that the message with the logo be "Go Green with Hope" to introduce and reinforce the Green Fair. The secretary will begin to look for the bags and contact the printer.

Wallace mentioned to the group that Sobon is doing a good job keeping the Facebook page current with the Commission/Team's events. Sobon asked people to go on to the facebook page and sign in / up.

Sobon asked whether there was anything new to report on the Book Nook. The secretary noted that there was not.

**CORRESPONDENCE** In reviewing previous month's correspondence, questions were raised about the Norweco septic disposal system: whether the system was above ground or underground; and whether it was loud with the surrounding neighbors in mind. The secretary did not know the answer to these questions but would find out.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

**Linda Gabel**

secretary