

MINUTES
HOPE TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION and GREEN TEAM
January 20, 2015

The meeting was called to order by the secretary.

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: Members: Ellen Benoit, Virginia Caballero, Cathie LaBar, Evan Rupff, Monica Sobon and Jennifer Wallace Absent were members John Lucas, Patty Maertens, Betsy Peterson, Tim McDonough, Nancy Chambellan and Chris Rusin

REORGANIZATION The secretary opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chairman. A motion was made by LaBar, seconded by Benoit to elect Sobon as chairman. By voice vote, all were in favor.

The secretary then opened the floor to nominations for the position of Vice Chair. A motion was made by Benoit, seconded by Wallace to elect LaBar as vice chair. By voice vote, all were in favor.

The secretary then asked the members of the commission to look over the list of meeting dates for any errors or omissions. The dates of the meetings for 2015 are as follows:

February 17, 2015

March 17, 2015

April 21, 2015

May 19, 2015

June 16, 2015

July 21, 2015

August 18, 2015

September 15, 2015

October 20, 2015

November 17, 2015

December 15, 2015

The Commission and Green Team will reorganize for 2016 on January 19, 2016

A motion was made by LaBar, seconded by Wallace to approve the meeting dates. By voice vote all were in favor.

At this point, the secretary turned the meeting over to the Chairman, Monica Sobon.

MINUTES The minutes of the meeting of December 16, 2014 have been distributed to the members prior to this meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes as submitted by Wallace, seconded by LaBar. By voice vote, all were in favor with Benoit abstaining.

OLD BUSINESS GRANTS: Benoit noted that the Regional / Recreational Trails grant might not be available as there is no grant application on the website. She will check again. Benoit also noted that there is an ANJEC grant for trails with an April 1st deadline. It was noted that we did not get any money last time for the resurfacing of the path at Swayze Mill Park. A brief discussion was held in which various ways to reword the grant application were discussed. Among the subjects brought up during the discussion were: mention of invasive species; exercise stations; annual family picnic; asking the youth / scout groups to help with the development of the pathway; resubmitting the same application as last time with the hope that this year it might get through.

RECYCLING: Gabel reported that the recycling containers that we ordered through the county are in. Some of those containers were to be given to the school group that made the presentation last year focusing on the wetlands area behind the school. It was decided that the Green Fair would be the best opportunity to present the students with the containers. It was noted that they would be doing nothing back in that area until the spring anyway.

FRACKING: LaBar reported that the subcommittee used 3 different municipalities' fracking resolutions to create, what they felt, is one strong resolution for the Township Committee to consider. The commission members agreed that the resolution was a good one. The question was raised as to who would write the letter that is referenced to at the end of the resolution. It was decided that that letter would simply be a cover letter to accompany the resolution. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the side effects of fracking for natural gas and the merits of a resolution as opposed to an ordinance. All agreed that an ordinance would really be what we would need to keep this type of activity out of the Township. It was suggested that the resolution request be sent on to the Township Committee along with a note indicating that the Environmental Commission would like to see the same in ordinance format, so that it would be enforceable, and that they would be investigating grants that might be available to help foot the bill for the formation and completion of the ordinance.

It was also noted that Pocono Community Theater in East Stroudsburg would be showing the movie "Groundswell Rising" on Saturday, January 31, 2015 at noon if anyone were interested in attending.

A motion was made by Benoit, seconded by Wallace to approve the fracking resolution as submitted by the subcommittee to be passed along to the Township Committee. Roll Call: Rupff-yes, Wallace-yes, LaBar-yes, Caballero-yes, Benoit-yes, Sobon-yes.

NEW BUSINESS The secretary reported that she had been in touch with Randall Soloman from Sustainable Jersey in Trenton and he also thought that it would be a good idea to hold a joint meeting for surrounding municipalities that might be interested in working on attaining SJ certification. He agreed that he and one other person from SJ in Trenton would hold a presentation at our May meeting (May 19th, 2015). The secretary read the letter that she drafted to the surrounding municipalities' governing bodies and environmental commissions inviting them to that meeting. The commission members agreed that the letter was good and should be sent out in February to give people enough time to put it on their calendars. The secretary noted that Solomon informed her that they would also be sending out something from their office about that meeting as well. The secretary agreed to share with him the municipalities and mailing addresses that she would be including in her mailing.

A brief discussion was held on the status of the Green Team. The secretary reported that Chris Rusin had resigned from the Green Team. All agreed that she will be missed. The commission discussed the possibility of restructuring the Green Team. Perhaps the Green Team doesn't need to meet as often as the Environmental Commission ... it could be structured that the Green Team would meet, say, January, February and March in preparation for the Green Fair and then not meet again until August in preparation for the picnic. This way, anyone who volunteered would not be committed to every month. It was also suggested that we work on getting volunteers from the schools – say 1 or 2 8th graders who have an interest in environmental issues and perhaps even tapping into the high school. This topic will be discussed again at the next meeting.

At this point the topic turned to the “give-aways” for the Appreciation Dinner. Various bags were considered as well as logos. It was decided that the small bag that looks like a strawberry when it's all packed up was the one for this year. There are two logos on that one – a larger one (8"x10") on the bag itself and a smaller one (1"x2") on the small corner that turns into the bag holder. It was decided to get the bag in green with white print. The large bag will have our logo and “Go Green with Hope” on it and the small corner will have white print as well and will have Hope with a Moravian star.

GREEN FAIR: A lengthy discussion was held about the Green Fair scheduled for April 11, 2015. Some of the points that were brought up for discussion: ANJEC has portable signage that we might be able to request for the fair; Sobon reported that the Town Ticket would not be a “cut out” type this year but she would have the businesses mark off the coupon on the ticket once it had been used; two letters were presented to the commission members, one to Hope residents/groups/businesses and one for neighboring municipalities residents/groups/businesses inviting them to participate in the Green Fair – the Hope letter would be sent to the town businesses along with the Town Ticket; Sobon suggested talking up the Free Cycling ahead of time to encourage people to participate; advertising for the Green Fair could be done in the Warren Reporter, Our Town magazine, Riverbend and the Panther Prints (Sobon noted that the business card size ad is free in the Panther Prints); commission members agreed to contact, in person, various businesses in town – Caballero- Fulton Bank, Country

Liquors, Hope Pizza, Hope Market, Hope Haircutters, Land of Make Believe. Wallace – Tramontin, Engel Auto Care, The Mediterranean, Benoit – Haven of Hope. Gabel will set up the e-waste and the paper shredding. The subject of different activities being included in the Green Fair was briefly discussed: ball room dancing; Raike; locally made honey, soaps etc...; 4-H; boy scouts, girl scouts.

VOUCHERS ANJEC – annual membership for 7 members **\$290.00**

A motion was made by LaBar, seconded by Wallace to approve this payment. Roll Call: Rupff-yes, Wallace-yes, LaBar-yes, Caballero-yes, Sobon-yes, Benoit-yes.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Gabel

secretary