Hope Township Environmental Committee and Green Team Meeting Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Zoom attendees: Ellen Benoit, Margo Biblin, Sarah Hare, Robin Keggan, Patty Maertens, Donna Marie, Terry Urfer, Monica Sobon

DISCUSSION NOTES

Reorganization

— Chairman, Monica Sobon; Vice-Chairman, Ellen Benoit. Three vacancies still to be filled.

Conditional Usage—Gas Station in POP

- Suggested and agreed that a letter be written to the PB requesting a work meeting on the 4th Monday of a Month to discuss on what the POP zone should be and how to get there.
- If another letter is to be written to the PB, references to NJ's Green Initiative Master Plan, Warren County Master Plan, and the phasing out of fossil fuels may be incorporated
- Continue to access the Tesla website to campaign for an EV charger station by the interchange: <u>https://www.tesla.com/en_EU/charging-partners</u>
- Suggestions needed to feasibly develop the POP to promote local agriculture.

Sustainable Jersey Public Information and Engagement Opportunity

- SJ Consultant issued draft Report targeting internet and traffic as 2 main concerns, sets forth recommendations.
- New website currently in development with interactive calendar. Please share your feedback: <u>https://sites.google.com/margoforanimals.org/pie</u>

2021 Activities/Budget

- Ideas needed for **annual give-away**, paid out of tonnage money and used for education. Reusable face masks? Bamboo toothbrushes? ?
- EC/GT will request authorization from the TC to conduct a tree seedling distribution for 2021 at the municipal as done in 2020. 475 last year, possibly 500 this year. Trees must be picked up from State nursery outlet on April 22 (Earth Day) and distributed the next day, Friday, April 23, curbside pickup. Cost for Protector tubes for 20 seedlings at Swayzeffective, @ \$100.
- E-waste collection through Abilities (certain items, nothing over 50lbs, no TVs). \$100 per van. Any interest, feedback on researching the collection of TVs in bulk in Hope, then carting them over to the landfill? What about some kind of freecycle setup using the new website and using the state police barracks as an exchange spot?
- Schedule spring day for rain barrel installation at the municipal building, video and upload for demonstration. Kick off a neighborhood plant xchange; must specify preferred native plants, no noxious invasives. Help needed to ID best location for working, demonstration rain garden at the municipal building.

Gas Station Application for 2 Willow Court Site

 Although the Gas Station Application is dismissed (without prejudice) at the Planning Board level, the sale of the property is still an active process.

Sustainable Jersey Recertification deadline May 2022 (150 points for Bronze, 350 for Silver)

- ID-ing do-able actions: <u>https://www.sustainablejersey.com/actions/</u>
- Energy audit improvements at municipal buildings are a high priority; street lights for efficiency, cost savings and dark skies.

NOTE OF INTEREST

There was an oil leak on school property and remediation is being performed. We need more
info regarding environmental impact.