**Washington Township Green Team**

**Ad Hoc Committee Meeting**

**Monday April 2nd, 2018 6:30pm Minutes**

**Washington Township Municipal Building**

Members Present: Dan Ross, Paula Ross, Patty Homer, Committee Liaison Ken Short, Valerie Walsh

Members Absent: Bill Leavens, Others Present: none

Called to Order at: 6:34pm

Approval of March’s Minutes: Approved by those in attendance.

1. Old Business: **Harrington Park.** Dan informed the group that priority one is getting the remainder of the field seeded to complete the limited spring seeding. Dan brought up the need to see if the entrance is open for the season, or if accessibility is limited. Depending upon the weather the team will try to get workday in either this weekend or next to finish the project. Paula brought up that the team should work on getting all the remaining signage completed this week or next so it can be installed by the next two weeks.

Paula mentioned that she will be asking around to see if anyone’s mailbox was compromised from the past few winter storms and if they would be willing to donate it to our meadow. Patty told the team that she saw what she believed to be a really nice brochure holder outside of the Columbia trail and she would investigate who made it and see if we can get one replicated. She informed the group that she would go back and try to figure out who constructed it and if they might be willing to do the same for our project.

On the subject of fencing Paula said that we should go with a 6 foot tall fence with 8 ft posts rather than 8 feet fencing as originally planned. This will cut costs and logistically, once the posts are hammered into the ground, they will need to be a bit taller than the actual fencing regardless. Dan mentioned that general clean-up of the site will still need to be done, and all appropriate signage installed.

Dan informed the group that both the pollinator project, and the TREX challenge were going to be featured in the April edition of the Black River News, said to be out on April 18th. Ken informed the group that the township could possibly supply snow fencing for the rest of the meadow, and that he will look into that for us. Prior to installation, we would just need to mark out the relative area in question.

Ken also mentioned that there is interest in possibly naturalizing the townships detention basins. Dan offered to assist with the matter, and Ken informed him the township would be consulting with Dr. Keller, who would need to review the plant lists. Returning to the remaining deliverable for Harrington Field, Ken mentioned that the DPW has its own sign shop at the yard, and could possibly make signs for us. The simple sign could read “Harrington Pollinator Meadow Fields” with an arrow towards the meadow.

1. Future Business or Activities:

**TREX Challenge-**Paula informed the team that she heard back from the company and they told her that we would in fact be eligible for two benches, should we be able to get 1000lbs by next March. So we have nearly twelve months to accomplish our goal. Dan brought up that he was asked in the Black River interview whether both benches would go to Harrington or where else we might be looking to place the second one. For now, no decision was reached on placement of the second bench.

**Sustainable Jersey:** Paula told the group that she reached out to Jacqueline Zuzzi from the Township Library and she said that she was willing to pass along the Green Cleaning information to the board of trustees and see whether or not they would be willing to adopt the cleaning products. Paula also informed the team that the library has also recently switched over to all LED lighting and we will be looking into seeing if we can get action points for that as well. Regarding incorporating the information into an inclusive energy audit, Ken told the team that the township, had already done the energy audit last year, and we will need to look into further.

Paula offered to reach out to the green cleaning companies to see if they also provide recycled content paper. The companies we are looking into at the moment are Jersey Paper, in Edison, TSP maintenance supply in Easton. Ken offered to look into whether or not the township already does use recycled content paper in any capacity, or might be willing to make the switch. Ken also suggested that we could collect plastic bags for our TREX challenge, at the paper shredding event this year on April 21st and he will advertise that on our website.

Paula advised that Clean Communities Week will run from April 21-28th involvement in which had been a priority, but since we are still a small group and Dan will be on vacation, the team discussed participating in the fall clean up event as a Green Team, and fundraiser instead.

**Green Market?** Dan mentioned the few places that we had been looking into already, and the group discussed some other possible ideas. Ken thought maybe behind the brewpub, or the old Byrd now Ort farm stand on 517 as possibilities. Ken also suggested maybe Totten Farms? Dan agreed to reach out to them on the behalf of the team.

**Partnering with Schools:** Pattytold the team that she had reached out to Liz George regarding the BOE meeting, but was unable to attend the most recent meeting, and did not have any updates at this time. Plans are still in the works to join efforts with the local schools to encourage participating in the Sustainable Jersey initiatives.

**Green Festival Meeting Updates:** Dan brought up the need to get forms updated for this year, to begin approaching vendors. The new time for the festival was also brought up by Dan, and solar signs were mentioned again. Patty was asked if the gentleman running the Physics Show needed any permits for his presentation, she said she didn’t think he has ever needed them in the past. To be on the safe side, it was decided that activities would be limited in scope to ensure we are within any potential liabilities. Logistics of how we could promote the show in on-going intervals in between band play was also discussed.

**Fundraising**: Nothing new was discussed, other than possibly participating in Clean Communities Week in the fall, and perhaps selling reusable totes to encourage participants to ditch single use plastic disposable ones.

**Outreach:** Dan mentioned thatour Facebook page got 36 new “likes” this week, and we are still actively looking for more members for the green team. Patty mentioned that she would like to reach out to the township for feedback from the community both negatives and positives for this year’s green festival. Patty also mentioned that as we get closer to the event and know more of the vendors we will have, she would like to get started on our event passport game that she suggested to the group as a means of encouraging participants to visit more booths this year.

1. **Call to adjourn:** 8:05pm unanimously approved.