**Washington Township Green Team**

**Ad Hoc Committee Meeting**

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

**Washington Township Municipal Building**

Members Present: Chairman Dan Ross, Paula Ross, Patty Homer,

Members of the public: Denise Spina-Belsky and David Belsky

Others Present: Township Administrator Andrew Coppola

Called to Order at: 6:36pm

1. **Old Business**:

**Harrington Fields**- Dan told the group about all the final progress on the fields, that all of the remaining deliverables had been met, and the grant extension from ANJEC had been allowed. Dan explained that he submitted the Final addendum and we are awaiting final approval from ANJEC, and the disbursement of the final funds for the project. Paula explained how we had been kicking around the idea of having someone raise the flag on the newly installed mailbox to signal that there were more brochures needed. The group discussed the pressing need to pull as much of the emerging mugwort from the field as possible. Paula explained the project to Denise and David, including why we did the meadow the way we did, and how we wanted to avoid using herbicides and stay chemical free. With the heat wave up-coming Dan discussed the need to set up a watering schedule and asked for volunteer participation, the group was very receptive to the idea of enacting a shared watering schedule. Future work with the trail was also discussed as well. Paula asked if anyone knew about the birdhouses that are present at the location, but no one was aware who had installed them initially.

**TREX Challenge-** Paula told the group that the challenge has been completed and we have our two up-cycled benches coming, next steps will involve talking to the DPW about putting in pads and securing the benches. Paula informed the group that she had already spoke with Ken to discuss some options to secure them. The bench will also need some sort of plaque or signage to let the public know how they were acquired.

1. **Future Business or Activities**:

**Sustainable Jersey:** Dan mentioned to the groupthat Andrew had shown him some information regarding the Complete streets initiative and that the group might wish to follow up on that some more when time allows. There is an offer for free consultation to get the ball rolling, but the deadline for the application is quickly approaching.

**Green Market:** Dan discussed the need for a site plan and to figure out how many vendors we could accompany.Dan mentioned pushing the market back another week to July 12th due to slow vendor sign ups and the holiday week. Denise offered to reach out to Dean’s Market in Chester. Dan mentioned whom he had reached out to so far and put in the request for anyone else to reach out as well. Dan also explained the need for parking signage; need to block off the first aid building, and to talk with the DPW regarding trash cans, portable toilets and the parking lot ramp. Dan discussed the need to figure out a volunteer schedule for setting up and check-ins.

**Partnering with Schools**: Dan mentioned to the group that he had reached out to AJ from the township school district, and that they were currently working on setting up a date to meet and discuss some opportunities to collaborate. Dan was hopeful that the group could begin to work on some joint initiatives before the fall.

**Green Festival Updates:** Patty inquired how many vendors we currently had and Dan told her he would send her the latest list, but he believed it was around twelve or so. He mentioned he would reach out to Green Mojo Eco Consulting and asked if anyone had any more suggestions. Patty said that she would like list of vendors so she can reach out to them about their logos for making stamps for the passport game. It also came up that the group still needs to discuss what types of give always we could offer the kids for completing the game as well. Dan brought up the theme of reducing plastic this year and that the group might reach out to all the non-profits to let them know to be able to represent that theme as well. Dan also mentioned that we could have the sustainable alternatives to plastic on our table this year to promote the theme.

**Sponsors:** Nothing new to report. Dan said that we would reach out to the Chester-Long Valley Rotary Club to gauge their potential interest. Patty suggested perhaps we reach out to the Jr. Women’s club as well. More sponsors will continue to be sought in the next few weeks.

**Fall Clean Communities**: Paula explained the details of the bi-annual event and how successful it has been for the LV garden club. Dan explained why we would like to do the fall clean ups both as a means of raising some funds for future projects, and also for positive media coverage for the Green Team. Paula mentioned that she would like to see the “Green Team event here!” signs by then. Dan brought up his idea of pooling volunteers with other township committees in order to accomplish more projects together. Paula thought maybe we could reach out to more corporate groups to help out as well.

**Fundraising/ New Grants:** Nothing new to report or discuss.

**Outreach:** Dan made a pitch to Denise and David to possibly join the Green Team. Denise said that they were interested, and that they would be very interested in assisting with future volunteer events as well. Dan mentioned that the group’s efforts have been getting into the local paper a lot lately, and that there is also a need to promote the Green Team and explain what we do and who we are. Dan mentioned that the Facebook page is up to 500 like now, and that there was a need to create a page for the Green Market as well, once we officially launch.

**Upcoming events**: Dan mentioned the idea of having a butterfly release at the ribbon cutting ceremony at Harrington Fields when we are ready to do the reveal. Dan mentioned that we might want to reach out to the North American Butterfly Assoc. (NABA) to assist with the efforts.

1. **Call to adjourn:** 8:15pm