**Washington Township Green Team**

**Ad Hoc Committee Meeting**

**Monday February 5th, 2018 6:30pm Minutes**

**Washington Township Municipal Building**

Members Present: Dan Ross, Paula Ross, Valerie Walsh

Members Absent: Patricia Homer, Bill Leavens, Mark Napolitano, Ken Short

Called to Order at: 6:38pm

1. Approval of Minutes: Minutes approved by those in attendance. 2018 Boards and Committees members were discussed briefly and the new 2018 Green Team roster was handed out.
2. Old Business: **Harrington Park.** Dan mentioned that he visited the park in late January and the grass clumps that were left on site had been removed by the DPW as promised. The site is in good shape following a mild winter and nothing has begun sprouting prematurely. Paula mentioned that we should return early in the spring to spread seed on the area we were unable to reach in the fall. We agreed that we will need to order deer fencing to install around the smaller part of the field that was obstructed with grass clumps, this will serve as a control both for deer browse and also as a spring seeded section of the meadow. Dan passed around the Harrington Fields tri-fold brochure that he created for the project, to gain insight and feedback. Valerie suggested we get the brochure on the town website, and Environmental Commission page to generate more traffic to the websites.
3. Future Business or Activities:

**Sustainable Jersey:** Paula reached out the Willow School in Bedminster NJ on January 29th, and spoke with Emmet Kresge, Director of facilities for the school to determine which green cleaning products they use so that we might employ the same productsas an SJ approved action. She mentioned that the school was recently “Living Building” certified. The product they use is called “Envirox absolute” and it is a hydrogen peroxide, orange peel-based product, endorsed by the EPA, which is asthma friendly and a viro-icide. Paula informed us that there is also a safety datasheet available for review and that there is an accompanying training video and guide on how to use the product. In addition, the manufacture is happy to do a side by side cost analysis to determine what if any savings might be attained by switching to their product.

Paula also contacted Andrew Coppola, and Ken Short to determine whom to contact regarding purchasing the cleaning supplies for the Municipal building and school district. In order to ascertain how the product can best suit the town we will need to answer a questionnaire, regarding cleaning budget, how much product we are currently using and any cleaning challenges that we might have. Paula also tracked down a few local distributors and their contacts so they might be able to give a brief presentation to the township.

**“Fix it Day”**- Paula spoke with a local handyman who is environmentally friendly and he said that he would love to be involved. More craftsmen will need to be sought after, and a date will still need to be established. Library might be one place to hold the event or maybe the middle school. The team also debated possibly reaching out to Lowes or Home Depot to see if they will donate fix-it kits for the event.

**Green Market?** It was unanimously agreed that in the past, it was not a particularly great location due to lack of parking and the unintended consequence of attributing to a lot of traffic congestion. Dan suggested that we could look into another viable location and revive the market. Valerie suggested we might reach out to Ort Farms, but there might be some competition to his market.

**Partnering with Schools:** Dan informed the group that Patty had great news to report from the BOE meeting regarding Sustainable Jersey for Schools but unfortunately, we would have to wait until the next meeting to hear more. Plans were also discussed to possibly involve the students more with the upcoming green festival.

**Green Festival Meeting Updates:** Paula attended the meeting held by the Fireworks committee, on January 25th at 7pm. She informed us that the festival date is set for Sept 8th with a rain date of Sept 22nd. Vendors will be able to set up at 3:30pm- with festival to start at 5-8pm, vendors are welcome to stay but will need to stay throughout. Vendors will once again pay $15 per table. Paula brought up that we would like to perhaps move our tents this year, and the committee is willing to set us up on opposite side of field by the baseball game. We will look into targeting more green businesses than in years past, and we will ramp up our efforts to obtain as many as possible this year. Yet to be determined is how many maximum vendors we can accommodate? Paula informed us that the next meeting is February 15th at 7pm. We will begin looking for prospective vendors within a 25 mile radius.

1. **Fundraising**: Paula and Dan discussed having a “Why go Natives” talk at the library with a small native plants sale to follow that weekend to generate some revenue for our budget. Money raised could go towards producing a Green Team event today sign, or other expenditures as needed. Other possibilities might be to see if we could get some additional funding from participating in the Clean Communities Week this year as the Green Team. Paula spoke with Robin, the secretary of public works to see if we would be able to participate and receive some of the funding incentive for participating this year.
2. **Outreach:** Paula suggested we could advertise to prospective new members via posting our brochure at the library, or as Valerie suggested on the EC website, or town webpage. Paula suggested that maybe we could do a formal presentation to the Highlanders Club, and that might generate some new interest. Other options for improving membership will be entertained at the March meeting.
3. **Open Discussion:** Paula and Dan discussed perhaps getting the Highlanders involved in the spring right before the unveiling of the new meadow for one last prep/ workday. It was considered that the group might make a pitch to get them involved with trails, and maintenance, and to improve outreach and involvement with the community.
4. **Call to adjourn:** 7:45, unanimously approved**.**