**Washington Township Green Team**

**Ad Hoc Committee Meeting**

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

**Washington Township Municipal Building**

Members Present: Dan Ross, Paula Ross, Gregg Forsbrey, Patty Homer

Members Absent: Bill Leavens, Ken Short, Valerie Walsh Others Present: Andrew Coppola

Called to Order at: 6:54pm

1. Approval of February’s Minutes: Approved by those in attendance.
2. Old Business: **Harrington Park.** Dan explained which deliverables would still need to be taken care of at the park. Spring seeding, fencing, removal of rocks. Signage for the meadow, and any plans for the future. Gregg mentioned that we should get the new brochure up on the town website, as was previously discussed in the last meeting. Dan explained that we would be getting a few signs made for the park, and the remaining work that was required before April.
3. Future Business or Activities:

**Sustainable Jersey:** Paula mentioned to the group that her research had turned up that there are a few entities that would need to be reached out to, and she would continue reaching out to them. Dan explained that we would be looking into whether or not the TREX initiative would count for points or not. Paula explained what the contest was and the group brainstormed where else we might put bins and banners. Paula mentioned how much we have accumulated so far, and what the next steps would be.

**Green Market?** Dan brought up that we were looking to revive the market and we would need to determine a good location. Dan brought up reaching out to Ort Farms as was suggested by Valerie last meeting. Gregg mentioned that the group should reach out to Nicole Ort to see if they would be interested, and to also maybe reach out to Leonia Harrington, who previously ran the green market.

**Partnering with Schools:** Dan mentioned that Gregg had introduced him to AJ Whitmore who is in charge of buildings and grounds for the school district, and that the group had reached out to him and are looking forward to engaging. Gregg also mentioned that K-8 won a competitive grant for an innovative recycling program and will be partnering with the green team to help out with the green festival this year. Dan mentioned his ideas about involving the students with making signage for the festival. Gregg discussed the need to attend the upcoming Board of Education Meeting to discuss more opportunities to collaborate. Patty told the group about the grant the school received, and gave more details about the composting, recycling initiative.

**Green Festival Meeting Updates:** Gregg confirmed that we should have funding available once again this year for Rizzo’s reptiles. Andrew mentioned that they were already booked and paid for this year. Patty informed the group that the Rutgers Physics Show would be willing to participate this year free of charge. We could only feature the show in between musical acts, but this would be a great opportunity to draw in more attendees, and would be great for the children. Gregg mentioned the need to go after sponsors this year for the event.

Paula mentioned that she would really like to see the festival trend more sustainable this year. She said that she has a few new vendors in mind already and will be following up with them including Holistic Design hair salon. Gregg suggested that the price should go up from $15 to $25 per vendor. Dan and Paula will be reaching out to the Fireworks committee to find out when their next meeting will be. Patty also mentioned the need to come up with a festival passport game, to get the attendants to go from tent to tent.

**Fundraising**: Dan brought up the few ideas; native plant sale, water bottles etc that we have discussed so far. Dan mentioned his idea to sell the reusable totes at the festival, and the group discussed additional ideas. Gregg suggested that we could just simply have a donations welcome jar at the festival. Paula mentioned the Clean Communities Day as another possibility for funding. Dan told the group that it would be great if we could do the event as a Green Team to promote our mission and gain public visibility. Paula brought up her idea to have “Green Team event here today” signs, and Dan mentioned that the local sign purveyor we are looking to use for the meadow could also make the yard signs.

**Outreach:** Dan mentionedthathewould very much like to see the Green Team grow, and asked the group to think of who we might reach out to and recruit. Gregg mentioned that there were a few pending applications to the township and that might be an opportunity there. Gregg suggested that we might get the brochure up on the town website and maybe get more people that way. The group also plans on looking into getting information about the GT up on the township signboard.

1. **Call to adjourn:** 8:33pm unanimously approved.