**Washington Township Green Team**

**Ad Hoc Committee Meeting**

**Monday June 4th, 2018 6:30pm Minutes**

**Washington Township Municipal Building**

Members Present: Chairman Dan Ross, Paula Ross, Patty Homer, Township Committeeman Gregg Forsbrey, Valerie Walsh, Bill Leavens.

Others Present: Township Administrator Andrew Coppola, Chair of Economic Development Committee Tyler Oborn

Called to Order at: 6:38pm Approval of May’s Minutes postponed until end of meeting.

1. **Old Business**: Dan opened the meeting by informing the group that the meadow project was nearly completed and only the final remaining deliverables needed to be checked off. He said that they Final Report had been submitted to ANJEC and they had granted an extension to spend the remaining funds on mature plants for the meadow. Dan told the group about the mishap with the meadow signage that was being corrected, and that the posts and materials to install the rest of the signage was all purchased and ready to go. He also mentioned that he has contacted the DPW to discuss a mowing and maintenance schedule as well. Gregg mentioned the Shade Tree Commission is still interested in participating with the meadow in some capacity, and Paula suggested native tree plantings along the perimeter. Dan suggested that an additional workday might be scheduled to complete the remaining work, and also mentioned that the ad hoc trails committee would be assisting with implementing the interpretative path and signage.

**TREX Challenge-** Paula mentioned that she had just dropped off another 103 lbs of plastic film for the challenge, and that she dropped off three more bags this past week. The grand total now sits at 754 lbs. She also mentioned that she would like to possibly inquire about passing along the bins to the local schools or another entity in the township. She reiterated that we will be very close to finished with the initiative soon and she would like to repurpose the bins here in town if at all possible. Dan mentioned that he would like to continue to look into the possibility of carrying on a similar type of challenge again should the opportunity present itself, given its soaring popularity.

1. **Future Business or Activities**:

**Sustainable Jersey:** Dan mentioned that he would still like to see the group to work on the grass clippings and composting flyers for town-wide distribution and Andrew brought up the fact that it might still be on the town website. Andrew was later able to produce a pamphlet from a few years back that indeed had some of the information on it. Dan will look into updating the information and see if we can get it onto the town’s website and social media pages.

**Green Market:** Tyler introduced himself to the group and briefed everyone about the progress so far. He informed the group that the field next to the Long Valley First Aid Squad building sounds entirely viable, but there are still a few issues of concern that will need to be addressed. Tyler suggested that the later starting date for the market might not necessarily be a detriment, as a lot of farmers have been delayed with harvest this year due to the weather. Regarding the concern over trash removal, Andrew informed the group that trash receptacles would need to be purchased first, but that any bags of trash from the event would simply need to be tied up that evening and then the DPW could pick them up Friday morning. Gregg suggested that we might be able to purchase or borrow collapsible bins like we used at green festival. Gregg brought up a concern which was brought to his attention by the county health department, that certain types of food vendors might be required to be on solid ground for the health inspector to be satisfied. Following some concern, Tyler informed the group how we has previously discussed the process we might follow in vetting possible vendors. Tyler mentioned the Pharmacy owner wants signage preventing parking in his closest spots, and Dan mentioned that the LVFAS was similarly concerned that patrons might try to park in their lot as well. Valerie suggested that LVFAS might put up cones to prevent parking in their lot. We will continue to discuss possible solutions to ensure that all parties are comfortable with the parking situation. Regarding the concern over vendor access to the field, Andrew said the DPW could put together a wooden ramp on the mall side for vendors to access the field and get over the curb. He reconfirmed that as township property DPW is also okay with mowing the field. Gregg questioned if we would restrict access or postpone the market on rainy days due to muddy conditions. No consensus was reached, but it was agreed that this would also be considered.

 Andrew proposed that the vendors get locked in for the year so that they won’t be fickle about attendance. Money could go to cover costs, promotion, and some contribution back to the LVFAS. We discussed a daily fee, with a discounted fee for the entire season. We thought that maybe a 16 week season from 3-7pm. Bill suggested press release to get the word out. Andrew will check if we can get promotion up on the WT police sign. Dan mentioned getting a banner made up for the market to hang on the fence near the parking lot. Question came up about should it be called the Green Market or Farmers Market? Farmers to attract more farmers, Green might make people think it’s the same old market new location? Discussion came up about what logo to use? Bill said call it “The Market.” Dan will look into getting signage created perhaps Susan? New date is June 28th  to give us more time to plan and to avoid the Middle School graduation.

**Partnering with Schools**: Nothing new was discussed. Although Dan stated that he would like to continue to have this topic on the agenda with an eye towards forming a partnership this fall.

**Green Festival Updates:** Danmentioned that he saw Long Valley Milk Man as a possibility and he will look into further. Ethos Farms was brought up as another that should be asked. Bill suggested reaching out to Coffee Potter as well, and following up with RHA to be there as well. Dan mentioned that he asked Blue Owl, and the few vendors from natural awakenings. Bill also suggested that the group might reach out to Skylands Visitor magazine for promoting as well, and suggested that we get in touch with Lauren Vasquez from the Middle Valley Community Center to pick her brain on further ways to promote the event.

**Sponsors:** Gregg informed the group that the Brew Pub would like to be more involved and sponsor the event this year, although they can’t necessarily sell food because the fire department will have that covered with the food trucks. Paula suggested they could possibly sell growlers to be filled back at the restaurant. The group agreed that it would be a good idea to continue to reach out to potential sponsors who might be able to cover the costs of various items. Bill inquired about having a local car dealership sponsor the event, and having a hybrid car on display. Chester Rotary Club was also brought up as a possible ask for sponsorship.

**Passport Game-** Patty informed the group that all the vendors would be included on a map that children could go around and answer trivia questions to get a sticker for visiting each booth, as a means of driving kids and families to the booths. The group discussed the need to have a give-a-way prize for completing the game. One possibility that came up was to give away seed bombs/ seed paper. These could either be assembled by the group or could possibly be purchased.

**Fall Clean Communities**: Paula suggested we could do be Cataract Park as a clean-up spot. As we get closer to the sign up period for the event, the group will continue to consider other locations that might be cleaned up as well.

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

**Outreach:** Patty talked about her idea to incorporate videos for the social media page. She suggested that these could simply be two minute shorts on sustainable actions, etc. Dan mentioned that the group might also “go live” at a future event.Promoting the social media page, and getting more members to join will continue to be a topic of discussion.

1. **Call to adjourn: 8:45pm approved by all in attendance.**