



**Hawthorne Environmental Commission Minutes
January 10, 2019**

Call to Order: Rayna Laiosa, Rosanne Zagatta, Mary Lou DiMattia, Robert Meier, Liana Romano, and Carol Roberts

Guests: Veronica Ditko, Lisa DeVos, Holly Cowen, and Craig Cayetano

- I. Attendance and Acceptance of Meeting
 - a. Joint Environmental Commission/Green Team Meeting Minutes – December 6, 2018
Motion by: Robert Meier Second by: Mary Lou DiMattia
- II. 2019 Hawthorne Environmental Commissioners – Appointments – Rayna Laiosa, Mike Mariani, Robert Meier, Mary Mahon, Carol Robertson, and Liana Romano,
- III. Planning Board Report – Mary Lou DiMattia – No updates
- IV. Zoning Board of Adjustment – Borough of Hawthorne received a letter from NJDEP dated November 29, 2018 regarding CHCC Dam. NJDEP letter states “The Dam Failure Analysis dated September 2018 states that the proposed CHCC Dam should be classified as a Class II, Significant Hazard Structure. The information provided in the Dam Failure Analysis is insufficient to complete a review...” -
- V. Green Team Subcommittee Meeting
 - a. Community Garden 2018 –
 - 1. 2019 Community Garden - three (3) garden beds available for the 2019 community garden season. Will Announce (3) garden beds are Available in mid-January 2019; Friday January 25, 2019 deadline for applications; Award Garden Beds in February 2019; Require all gardeners to attend a Green Team meeting at the March 25, 2019 to review garden rules and regulations
 - 2. Discussed Ordinance Fee to be amended; include that the community garden fees can be utilized for the operation and maintenance of the community garden; Rayna needs to discuss with Eric and Mayor Goldberg – 2019
 - b. Green Lectures/Bird Walks 2019
 - 1. Bird Watching 101 – Lisa DeVos, Holly Cowen, and Liana Ramona – Discuss nesting boxes, feeders, birds, etc. Confirmed/Booked **Tuesday March 5, 2019**
 - 2. Green Cleaning - Theresa Moeller – North Haledon – Norwex Products – professional grade microfiber and water is needed to remove 99% bacteria from surfaces; “Chemical Free Cleaning by Norwex; Confirmed/Booked **Tuesday March 19, 2019**

- 3. Bird Walks – Confirmed/Booked Dates – April 13, 2019 (Saturday April 6, 2019 – Cel Earth Bration), May 11, 2019 (Grand Opening Gateway Project), May 25, 2019, or June 1, 2019
 - 4. Publicity – Borough website, Municipal Electronic Board, Nixel, Facebook, local newspapers – ads; Liana will prepare the Bird Walk Press Release;
 - c. Schedule of Events Flyer – Create – Lisa DeVos – Finalized – Complete – Will distribute on Website and Facebook pages; Potentially set up Facebook Events for Activities
 - d. **Next Green Team Monday January 28, 2019 at 7:30 pm – Hawthorne Library**
- VI. Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program for Municipalities - Hawthorne awarded \$20,000 grant on May 8, 2018 (**project must be completed October 1, 2019**)
- a. **Interim Report Due:** January 31, 2019 – in process; Rosanne will prepare initial draft of the interim report and send to Rayna for review
 - b. **Rutgers** – Received Scope of Work proposal dated June 11, 2018; Council approved the Resolution on June 20, 2018. Waiting for Rutgers to propose dates for kickoff Site Visit meeting. – Confirmed Thursday July 12, 2018 at 10:00 am – Carol met with Rutgers. – Received Design September 4, 2018; Rayna will send to the Team for review; Team agreed with the Rain Garden Design; Rayna communicated to Rutgers; Friday October 5, 2018 at 8:00 am to have a Kick Off Meeting with Commission and Downes Tree Service – Conducted; Rayna worked with the Borough to revise Rutgers Purchase Order; Schedule a site visit to finalize the rain garden design; Confirmed - Downes removed all tree/vegetation/trash/debris in the area of the rain garden; ground is leveled. – Completed – November 7, 2018 Carol met with Matt (Rutgers); Left rain garden approximately 250 square feet; Right rain garden approximately 400 square feet; Next Step: Rutgers will provide the final rain garden design to the Commission by the end of November or the first week in December 2019 – Completed – received on December 3, 2018. **Next Step:** April 2019 implement rain gardens
 - c. **Downes Tree Service** – Monday September 24, 2018 – Rayna met with Pieter to discuss revised rain garden location and scope of work; Pieter will provide a proposal to install the rain garden, clear the pathway to the River, and removal of the large tree.; On Friday September 28, 2018, Rayna received permission from DPW to remove the trees in the rain garden location. Friday October 5, 2018 at 8:00 am to have a Kick Off Meeting with Commission and Downes Tree Service – Confirmed; went very well; Rayna worked with the Borough issued the Purchase Order for Downes. – Completed; Downes started on Friday October 19, 2018 -the removal of trees and vegetation; Work will be completed by the end of October 2018; Work completed on Friday November 2, 2018 Walkway path will be 8 feet in width, not 10 feet – Confirmed with Rutgers on November 7, 2018;
 - d. **2019 Grand Opening Idea** – Work with local Dick’s Sporting Goods, Ramsey Outdoor, or Campmour for kayak or canoe demonstrations- Suggestion: REI in Paramus NJ – recreation equipment; conducts existing training program at facility; Additional Ideas – Art in/at the Gateway – Sketch Nature; **Target Date: Saturday May 11, 2019**
- VII. 2018 ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grants for Environmental Commissions Supported by the Sandy Batty Grant Fund Deadline Friday April 13, 2018 at 4:30 pm; Submitted Sunday April 8, 2018 (**project must be completed June 1, 2019**)
- a. “Gateway to the Passaic River” grant application – purchase of nesting boxes, trail sign, tree tags, and trail map created - \$1,500

- b. **ANJEC Interim Progress Report** – due Friday October 5, 2018; Rayna requested Extension to Monday October 29, 2018- Granted; Interim Report sent to ANJEC on Saturday October 27, 2018
- c. **ANJEC Final Report** – due June 14, 2019
- d. Design of the **Trail Sign** “Gateway to the Passaic River” – Led by - Mary Mahon presented initial designs for the Trail Sign – team discussed and reviewed the initial designs; made some suggestions to the Trail sign;
 1. Final Design – Canoe, Duck, Fish – Boxes around the wood the words “Gateway to the Passaic River” - Length of Trail Sign – 5 feet; Width of the Trail Sign – 2 feet; Rayna needs to create a pdf of the design in order to receive pricing for the trail sign. September 26, 2018 – final design was revised and Team agreed to the changes
 2. John Minicozzi – may be able to donate local wood to make the Trail Sign; re-purpose local wood into products; **Confirmed** - John will donate the wood to the Env Com/Green Team – Donated birch wood – 5 feet length by 2 feet wide and two (2) wooden posts (12 feet in length) for the Trail Sign
 3. Paul Whelan -Lucky Wood Hawthorne NJ – Will cut and make the Trail Sign; Paul will work with John on the selection of the wood – Birch wood selected – December Update – Cut and painted Canoe on the Trail Sign; Duck and Fish need to be updated; Paul will add the words “The” to the Sign in between Gateway to... Passaic River”
 4. Trail Sign Location – Maureen Cook/Rob Meier checking with Town and County for requirements – ordinances – Completed; Both confirmed no issue to installing the trail sign on the corner of Wagaraw Road (parking lot).
- e. **Trail Map** – Rayna is working with Marc Molenaro; Similar design as the 8 Acre Wood trail map; Mary will prepare a sketch of the trail map area of the Woody area and Ballfield Complex. Include the nesting boxes and tree tags on map. Mary Mahon created a preliminary design of the Trail Map like the 8 Acre Wood trail map – not to scale; Trail map will include the walking paths, approximately walking distances of the paths, nesting boxes locations, and tree identification tags. October 26, 2018 – Mary, Pat, and Carol will conduct a site visit to determine the number of steps and walking distances for the trail map. Completed; Trail Map size 11 x 17; potentially have an insert map of the area on Trail map; Mary finalized the trail map and will provide to Marc to set up the trail map design. Completed; **Next Step:** Marc is working on the design of the trail map based on Mary’s draft trail map.
- f. **Tree Tags** – Carol researched the internet; Found “Plants Map”; tree tags for Trees; Carol will order samples and send them to Pat MacDonald’s house. Pat brought the tree tag samples; Team loved them; Team agreed to purchase 10 to 15 large tree tags; Designated Carol to communicate with Hawthorne’s Arborist and Shade Tree Commission; Carol met with Kevin on Friday November 16, 2018 to identify the trees in the woody area and along the ballfields leading to the Passaic River. The following trees were identified: Silver Maple, American Sycamore, White Ash, Black Cherry, American Elm, White Mulberry, Catalpa, Boxelder, Pin Oak, and Black Locust; Kevin was familiar with Plant Map tree tags. Next Step: Carol will contact Park Ridge Green Team to discuss how Plant Map interactive map is utilized and how to order the Plant Map tree tags. Does the Hawthorne Green Team create an account before or after the purchase of the tree tags?; - Need to set up an account prior to purchasing Plant Map tree tags; Completed **Next Step:** January 2019 – Carol will work with Lisa DeVos on setting up an account with Plant Map website

- g. **Nesting Boxes** – Working with Cub Scouts – Steven Fitzsminon and John Manzo troop; Commission/Green Team will supply the recycled materials. What type of birds do we want to attract? Discussed: summary of the nesting box size openings that we are interested in building for the Gateway project. **Next Step:** Alex will determine the quantity of materials and costs (Home Supply) for the nesting box to make a total of 8 – Partial Completed . Request (8) nesting boxes to be built; Team agreed to attract the following birds: Chickadee (1 1/8 inch hole), Nuthatch (1 1/4 inch hole), Carolina Wren (1 1/8 inch hole), Screech Owl (3 inch hole), Wood Duck (4 inch hole), and Flicker (2 1/2 inch hole). Each of the birds have a different diameter of hole for the nesting box. On October 19, 2018 , Alex provided an estimate – approximately 60 linear feet ((3 pcs 5/4 x5 1/2" - 20'ers per group of 8 boxes) is required of the recycled materials for the nesting boxes. Home Supply has been identified as the vendor to purchase the recycled materials and nuts/bolts required. **Next Step:** Alex will visit Home Supply and get an order put together with the scope of materials; **Next Step:** Mike Mariani will contact Alex on the status of the nesting box materials. December 28, 2018 Alex responded; unable to purchase the recycled material from Home Supply and on line website – www.markstaar.com – recycled material; unable to purchase 3 pieces 5/8"-18" x 6'; minimum of 40 pieces must be purchased. **Plan B** – Rayna researched “Recycled Nesting boxes” companies other than Wild Birds Unlimited – Identified Duncraft – Made in the USA – New Hampshire; Lisa will review and make recommendations on the types of nesting boxes.

- VIII. Sustainable Jersey – Recertification Cycle – June 2019 – Provided the Sustainable Jersey Action Plan Brochure to members;
- a. Styrofoam Collection day - Identified EPS Recycling & Reselling of Densified EPS Springfield – Will accept Clean Styrofoam packaging material; No Peanuts, cups or food containers. Focus “Holiday Recycling Program of Styrofoam” Scheduled/Booked for Saturday December 29, 2018 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm (Snow/Rain Date: Saturday January 5, 2019) – Approved by Borough
1. Volunteers – Maureen (12 to 3 pm), Carol, Patty, Lisa (12 to 3pm), Mary (12 to 1pm), Liana (12 to 1pm), Craig, Holly and Rob
 2. Discussion on participation from outside of Hawthorne – Facebook question raised – Team agreed only Hawthorne Residents; may in the future open to outside Hawthorne; Rayna will communicate to Laura on decision
 3. There were 35 bags collected from 70 cars - 3 truck loads; EPS rejected one (1) bag. Participants stated they heard about the Styrofoam Drive from Facebook, Nixel, newspaper, and Town Hall Electronic Board. Overall, it was a Successful Event!!
 4. In the future, we will need to have a closed location for the bagged Styrofoam to prevent from the elements of the weather.
- b. 2019 Action Plan Implementation & Documentation – Carol and Patty met with Rayna on Sunday December 2, 2018 to review all Actions of the SJ Program; Created an Updated Excel Spreadsheet for 2019; At this time, it appears that Hawthorne will be able to maintain our Silver Status.
- IX. 27th Annual Cel-Earth-Bration – Saturday April 6, 2019 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- a. Theme – Initial Discussion – Hawthorne: Think Green, Act Green, Be Green
 - b. Focus on Interactive Educational – Demonstrations “Scavenger Hunt or Treasure Hunt”
 1. Garden Tips

2. Bird Watch
 3. Green Spaces – 8 Acre Woods – Need to re-print additional maps of the trails; Walking and Bicycle Paths on the Green Map Goffle Brook Park
 4. Stormwater Pollution
 5. Recycling Program
 6. Native Plants
 7. Hawthorne Historical Society
 8. Green Infrastructure
 9. Rocks of Hawthorne – Veronica
 - c. Prepare and Submit School Application – BOE – Room 120, cafeteria, auditorium, and classrooms; Ensure Sound System is working in Auditorium; Coordinate with HHS Principal
 - d. Request Teachers Representing the 5 schools – Distribute letters
 - e. Green Project Contest
 1. Prizes – Local and surrounding businesses; need donation letter
 2. Create 2019 Business List – See Excel spreadsheet
 3. Judges –
 4. 1st Place Winners Displayed at the Hawthorne Library
 - f. Potential Entertainment/Vendors
 1. Rizzo Reptile – Booked
 2. Hawks/Falcons – Rosanne will follow up with Bill Ponder
 3. Beekeeper – Liana will follow-up with her contact.
 4. Environmental Career Panel/Discussion
 5. Facepainting/Tattoos/Sponges
 6. Craft Workshop – Mary – bird feeder project
 7. Hawthorne Shadetree Commission
 8. Chet Scents
 9. Coco Sol – Natural products – body buffs, soaps, etc.
 10. Lincoln Middle School – Games – Two (2) new teachers are interested in participating at Cel-Earth-Bratton; Raffles – plants???
 11. Hawthorne High School Ecology Club – Dirt Cake Scott Chrimel
 12. Make Vendor Table Signs
 - g. T-Shirt Design Discussion – Think Green Act Green Be Green – letter going from big to small on the front of the T-Shirt; Liana will prepare the examples on how the T-shirt will look like. Liana will bring to the next meeting.
- X. Update on Issues and Commissioners Concerns, Next Steps
- a. **Goffle Brook Park** – Alex Vetlox – Concern/Issue – Fall Cutting Program – cutting of the native plants in September 2018 from the County; too early – removal of the seed pods; diminish fall flowering opportunities for the pollinators, birds, and wildlife; removal/cutting of the native plants – promotes ragweed to grow; Next Step: Holly take pictures; Alex prepare a draft letter outlining the concerns; Commission will review and work with the Municipality on potentially sending a letter to the County – Next Meeting December 6, 2018 Alex will prepare a letter to the Commission to review and discuss. – Alex was unable to attend the meeting.

**Environmental Commission Meeting
February 7, 2019 at 7:30 pm Municipal Building**