



**Virtual Meeting  
Hawthorne Environmental Commission Minutes  
August 13, 2020**

Call to Order: Rayna Laiosa, Rosanne Zagatta, Pat MacDonnell, Carol Robertson, Mike Mariani, Mary Mahon, and Rob Meier  
Guests: Maureen Cook, Lisa DeVos, Holly Cowen, Charles Stebbins, Craig Cayetano, Elizabeth Barker, and Alexandra Soteriou

**Join Zoom Meeting**

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- I. Attendance and Acceptance of Meeting –
  - a. Environmental Commission Minutes – July 2, 2020  
Motion by Rosanne Zagatta, Second by: Pat MacDonnell
  
- II. Hawthorne Environmental Commission Meetings August to December 2020 –  
Virtual – Zoom – All Good
  - a. Thursday September 10, 2020 at 7:00 pm
  - b. Thursday October 8, 2020 at 7:00 pm
  - c. Thursday November 12, 2020 at 7:00 pm
  - d. Thursday December 10, 2020 at 7:00 pm (joint meeting with Hawthorne Green Team)

- III. Hawthorne Green Team Meetings August to December 2020 – Virtual – Zoom – All Good
  - a. Monday August 24, 2020 at 7:30 pm
  - b. Monday September 28, 2020 at 7:30 pm
  - c. Monday October 26, 2020 at 7:30 pm
  - d. Monday November 23, 2020 at 7:30 pm
  - e. Thursday December 10, 2020 at 7:00 pm (joint meeting with Hawthorne Environmental Commission)
  
- IV. Planning Board Report – 204 Wagaraw Road Application – Met in July 2020 planning board hearing; Board Approved Plan
  
- V. Zoning Board of Adjustment
  - a. 53 Braen Avenue LLC – 10 Sotnick Street - TBD
  
- VI. Green Team
  - a. Buy local campaigns to support businesses in town -discussed Facebook Campaign “How I supported Hawthorne this Week?” Will start the week of June 21, 2020; Hashtag was created several years ago - #ShopHawthorneNJ; - All agree to continue; Discussed Fall Campaign – “passport” idea; create a Business List – All Businesses – Chamber and Non-Chamber; Point System receive 2 points for Chamber business; Non-Chamber business receive 1 point; and Purchase with receipt receive 5 points
  
  - b. Virtual Green Lectures via Zoom Meetings
    - 1. **Learn about Lyme Disease** - Scheduled for Thursday May 28, 2020 at 7:30 pm — by Alexandra Soterious; Went very well; **Attendance of 15 participants**
    - 2. **Hawthorne Birds** - - Discussion with Passaic County Parks – Kerry Klug; Ask the Passaic County parks if they can publish our Hawthorne Bird booklet; Rayna will reach out to Kerry Klug and about developing a partnership to jointly conduct environmental education programs at Goffle Brook Park. Request Lisa/Holly to create one page flyer for the Hawthorne Bird presentation; Focus on the specific areas and identify the birds.
    - 3. **Container Gardening for Everyone** – Promote Green Team Challenge via social media Each participant will grow a vegetable or herb in a container. Each participant will take photos of the growing progress and submit to the Hawthorne Environmental Commission email [HawthorneEC@gmail.com](mailto:HawthorneEC@gmail.com) by September 1, 2020. Prizes will be given to the participant who grows the most unusual plant and most bountiful herbs/vegetables either by weight (lbs.) or number of quantities. Pat reached out to the local daycares/nursery schools for participation – Pre-School Learning Tree, Magic Carousel, and Boys & Girls Club – Need to Re-Post Green Challenge – Container Gardening – Lisa will repost
    - 4. Goffle Brook Park Plants by Alexandra Soterious – posting photos and a description on Facebook pages; Request to develop Goffle Brook Plant booklet and table of contents; similar to the Passaic County Native Plants Booklet that was created for our Native Plant Program. All lectures will be publicizing through Face Book, Tap Into Hawthorne, Electronic Bulletin Board, and Boro’s website. Next Step: Rayna will call Alexandra on status. – June 19, 2020 - Alexandra is working the information; plants continue to be bloomed throughout the summer into Fall; Anticipate sometime in the Fall with draft of Goffle Brook Park Plant booklet.

5. Other Suggested Topics by Green Lecture participants from Learn about Lyme Disease –
  - i. Recycling – Maureen will work on program for the end of July/Beginning of August, Hawthorne’s Program is being adjusted; Maureen is working out the details; Bottle caps continue to be collected at Boro Hall; Maureen will follow up with Trex to determine if the program is continuing to collect plastic bags
  - ii. Composting – June 2020 – Mary created videos; Rayna will create the presentation.
  - iii. Cooking Class – Healthy recipes – Mary will follow up with Robin Garmise; more than likely it will be on Nutrition
- c. Virtual Green Team Meeting – Monday August 24, 2020 at 7:30 pm

VII. Town Wide Environmental Virtual Activity Discussion – Involve Community in Environmental Awareness

- a. Month of July - Poster Contest “Why I Love Hawthorne” – Press Release Completed and will be issued by July 6, 2020 – Nixel went out July 13, 2020
- b. Please email posters to [HawthorneEC@gmail.com](mailto:HawthorneEC@gmail.com) by August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020. All posters were posted on our Facebook and voting needs to be completed by Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 by 5:00 pm. – Lisa will monitor the email system for posters – Three (3) entries were submitted! So far, results on Facebook – Why I Love Hawthorne with 91 Likes/Loves; I Love Farmers’ Market with 38 Likes/Loves; and Hawthorne Wildlife Animals with 31 Likes/Loves; Will Announce Final Results Friday August 14, 2020 Night
- c. Tentatively – Present Prizes at the Farmers’ Market on Sunday August 16, 2020 at 11:00 am weather permitting; will reevaluate another date and location; Will Facebook Live the Award Ceremony;
- d. Press Release the Winners to local newspapers, social media, etc.

VIII. Gateway to the Passaic River Project

- a. Sustainable Jersey and ANJEC – Request additional 90 day extension – September 30, 2020 - Approved by both organizations
- b. Trail Map Status – Finalized - all agreed 200 copies – 60 lb paper – non-gloss printing (\$325); Received Trail Maps; Waiting for invoice. – Received Invoice and will submit for payment to Boro
- c. Trail Sign posts , Rain Garden Sign post, and tree tags installation – Week of July 13, 2020 Installation by Downes Tree Services - Completed
- d. Milkweed Plants – Purchase from Rohsler’s Allendale Nursery – Rayna will purchase the plants and potting soil – Plant milkweed plants on Saturday August 1, 2020 at 9:00 am; bring towels, gloves, face masks, and water jugs; Rayna, Mary, Rosanne, and Pat M volunteered – Planted milkweed in both rain gardens.
- e. Poison Ivy Warning Signs – Paul Whelan will create three (3) signs; Mary will follow up with Paul – ANJEC sign, too.; Paul made three (3) caution poison ivy signs for the trail to the Passaic River; Will be installed prior to Grand Opening
- f. Grand Opening –Confirmed - Saturday August 15, 2020 at 10:00 am Rain Date: Sunday August 16, 2020 at 10:00 am
- g. Create Invitation and List and email - Rayna - Completed
- h. Distribution list of the invitation – Hawthorne Businesses/Residents adjacent to the Gateway project area – Rayna will create the list; Mike Mariani, Rosanne Z, Mary, and Rayna distributed to businesses
- i. Press Release – Social media (Facebook, Boro’s website, Nixel and tap into hawthorne, and gazette) – Sent/Completed

- j. Hawthorne Bait & Tackle – Mary has been working with owner, Henry, to participate at our Grand Opening. – Will attend the grand opening. Confirmed
- k. Tri-Fold Poster Boards/Easels – Create – Gateway Project – Pat MacDonnell - Completed
- l. Tap Into Hawthorne – Photographer – Lyn and working to develop an Ad for online/digital newspaper – Completed and Issued; It looks great!
- m. Blue Ribbon cutting (Mary will purchase)/scissors (Mayor’s) - Completed
- n. Need to bring the following materials: Chalk, green tablecloth, tape measure, posters, easels, etc.
- o. Hawthorne Environmental Commission Website – Create Green Infrastructure webpage with Gateway project, Library project (rain garden and monarch butterfly), list of environmental resources/websites, and link to the Native Plant web page – Rayna will work with Boro Administration. Completed
- p. Discussed garbage and recycling containers be placed in the Gateway area. – Carry in and Carry out policy; trash and recycling containers are located at the ball fields across the bridge;

IX. Borough Owned Properties - Native Plant and Clean Up Discussion

- a. Municipal Building Boro Hall – Need list of native plants from Mike – Lincoln Landscaping; Rayna has repeatedly requested information; concern about the watering of the plants at Boro Hall – Status Update: July Received the list of native plants Completed; sprinkler system needs to be evaluated. Sprinkler system has a multi areas of the front and back of the municipal building. Rayna will work with the Administrator and DPW on the evaluation of the sprinkler system at the municipal building. – Status Update: DPW evaluated and fixed the sprinkler system; Completed
- b. Library – Rain Garden – Commission will re-plant milkweed plants in the rain garden/monarch butterfly garden; Milkweed will be purchased by the Commission’s 2020 budget. Mary Mahon will reach out to Monica Smith, Director of the Library, for permission to plant the milkweed. Rayna will follow up with Joe Metlzer – sprinkler system head in the monarch butterfly to determine if it is working – Status Update: Sprinkler head is working; Alexandra will contact Rohsler’s regarding the native plants – **Status Update:** received list of native plants from Rohsler’s; Will plant milkweed in the Fall timeframe.
- c. 8 Acre Woods - Discussed need to develop a comprehensive plan to address the overgrown paths, litter/debris, and the observation decks. Potential ideas: community native plant area, create more walking paths, preserve the biodiversity, and another community garden. 5<sup>th</sup> Landscaping, Tom, owner, is interested in helping with the clean up of the 8 Acre Woods – posted recently on Facebook; Tasked Alex to contact Tom to determine what Tom can offer the Commission; Alex will take the 8 Acre Wood trail map to develop a plan in multi-phase approach on how to clean up/beautify the 8 Acre Woods.

X. Update on Issues and Commissioners Concerns, Next Steps

- a. Shred Day – Saturday August 8, 2020 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm – Scheduled
- b. Need to propose dates for a Styrofoam Collection Drive in September 2020 - Discussion – Fall Date – Tentatively Saturday September 12, 2020; Maureen will confirm with Boro’s Administration. 12<sup>th</sup> of September is not good; checking into September 19, 2020 for alternative date.
- c. Adopt a Stormwater Drain Program – suggested by Craig Cayetano; County and Boro cleaning out the stormwater drain; Residents can help by removing the surface litter from the top of the stormwater drain; Do not enter the stormwater drain;

- d. Litter Campaign Program – discussed slogans and ways to take action
- e. Raised the Concern about the lack of mask wearing in the local businesses; Municipal is responsible for enforcing it.

**Virtual Hawthorne Environmental Commission**

**ZOOM Meeting**

**Thursday September 10, 2020 at 7:00 pm**