



**Virtual Meeting
Hawthorne Environmental Commission/Green Team Minutes
January 23, 2023**

Call to Order: Rayna Laiosa, Mary Mahon, Lisa DeVos, Holly Cowen, Robert Meier, Mike Mariani, and Charles Stebbins

Guests: Rita Pinelli, Maureen Cook, Karen Young, and Craig Cayetano

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8454403062?pwd=Yno2T1cxRmZVK29ralF0ZjNMb0RKZz09>

Meeting ID: 845 440 3062

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- I. Attendance and Acceptance of Meeting :
 - a. Joint Hawthorne Environmental Commission/Green Team Meeting Minutes – December 8, 2022
Motion: Mary Mahon 2nd Motion: Holly Cowen

- II. Planning Board Report - Robert Meier
 - a. Passaic County sent a letter to the Boro stating all improvements are completed at the Rea Avenue field

- III. Kids Corner Newsletter - Rita Pinelli - Winter 2023 Topic Discussion The Story of Snow - Positive reaction by Commissioners and Green Team members, Rayna will send final formatted Newsletter to Rita; Rita will send to Rick Spirito, Superintendent of Schools, for distribution of the three (3) Elementary Schools. Will send her email template of 2022 newsletters sent to Rick Spirito; Rayna will send Newsletter as a JPEG, Word, and pdf files to the appropriate news media – newspapers (gazette & Tap Into Hawthorne), Library, Boro Hall, Facebook and Boro’s Website

- IV. Green Team Meeting

- a. Community Garden
 - 1. January 2023 – Announcement of two (2) 4 x 8 Garden Beds Available; 2023 Garden Application and Rules/Regulations will be updated; Press Release sent to - Tap Into Hawthorne, Gazette, Borough Website, Facebook; Deadline Monday January 30, 2023 – Borough Hall – Attention Ellen Brogno. Names will be put in hat and drawn at the February 9, 2023 meeting as this is the protocol we have used since 2014 the start of the community garden.
 - 2. New Community Garden Entrance Sign – Designed by Mary Mahon; Wooden Sign created by Paul Whelan Design to be presented at Feb 9, 2023 meeting. Sign will be mounted on Trek Post and live edge wood material (similar to the 8 Acre Woods sign).
 - b. Polystyrene Dates - January 7, 2023 – Successful! 112 Plastic Bags and 119 vehicles participated; All material was dropped at Poly Molding in Haskell, NJ Thank you to all who participated and special thanks to Maureen Cook. Next drive Oct 14, 2023 rain date Oct 21. Discussion of an earlier one but the pool parking lot is unavailable. Hawthorne’s Shredding date is May 6th 2023
 - c. Next Green Team Meeting: Monday February 27, 2023 at 7:30 pm
- V. 8 Acre Woods – Boy Scout Project – Jack Manke
- a. Working on Fish and Wildlife Management Merit Badge.
 - b. The requirement is to develop a wildlife habitat improvement project.
 - c. Create a brush pile. A brush pile is a pile of large and small sticks which can all be collected within 8 acres. The brush pile provides habitat, resting place, and breeding site for animals such as deer, small mammals and birds. After discussion with the Commission, raised concerns of the brush pile as a fire hazard [[Brush Piles for Wildlife \(ct.gov\)](#)]; Rayna will reach out to Jack for alternative ideas/projects to achieve this merit badge.
- VI. 31st Cel Earth Bration – Saturday April 22, 2023 Hawthorne High School – 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- a. Hawthorne BOE Approved School Use Application December 2022
 - b. Theme Discussion Natural Beauty, Unique History, Special Natural History, Special Natural Environment, Celebrate Hawthorne's Natural History
 - c. Need to coordinate with town to match 125 years of history.
 - d. History of town at tables for Scavenger hunt
 - e. Show case winners at library. No prizes but a commemorative item [key chain, dog tag?] for all entries Mary to check with the library about use of show cases.
 - f. Discussion of theme and T-shirt design. After much debate and exchange of ideas CELEBRATING 125 YEARS HAWTHORNE HOMETOWN HABITAT. To be designed by Rita on front left as pocket design Craig and Rayna will work on a pie chart for the back of the shirt to include in alphabetical order WILDLIFE, 8 ACRE WOODS, GATEWAY TO PASSAIC RIVER, NATIVE PLANTS, COMMUNITY GARDEN, RAIN GARDENS, GREEN OPEN SPACES, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, HISTORICAL REFERENCES, RECYCLING, SHOP LOCAL; Maureen to check for colors and prices of shirts; All designs to be presented at meeting Feb 9TH
- VII. Update on Issues and Commissioners Concerns None

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ZOOM Meeting
Thursday February 9, 2023 at 7:30 pm