



**Virtual Meeting
Hawthorne Environmental Commission Minutes
May 11, 2023**

Meeting called to order: Rayna Laiosa, Mary Mahon, Lisa DeVos, Holly Cowen, , Robert Meier, and Mike Mariani

Join Zoom Meeting

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- I. Attendance and Acceptance of Meeting
 - a. Hawthorne Environmental Commission/Green Team Meeting Minutes – April 20, 2023 Motion: Rob Meier, 2nd Motion: Lisa DeVos

- II. Hawthorne Planning Board – Robert Meier
 - a. Application – 95 5th Avenue formerly abandon Gas Station; Will be re-developed, demo formerly abandoned gas station and build a new building for a Mechanical Contractor

- III. Green Team Meeting
 - a. Community Garden
 1. Mulch Delivery – Maureen to put in work order for DPW for the beginning of May 2023; gardeners will spread mulch around the garden beds and outside along the fence;
 2. Broken Fence – fixed by DPW
 3. 10th Anniversary Community Garden Celebration – Confirmed - Sunday June 11, 2023 at 10:30 am; Rayna prepared a list of former and current

gardeners to invite to our 10th anniversary celebration; each will receive a Special Invitation; Pat will use excel spread sheet prepared by Rayna to invite all former and present gardeners. Pat and Rayna will work on an e-mail for distribution. Pat - sent invitations

4. Pat will send an e-mail to all gardeners, Reminder of rules, weed around the garden bed and in the garden bed, water turned on, and mulch the path around their beds and fence.
 5. Community Garden Sign – Mary, Rayna, and Paul will set up a day/time, Wednesday April 26, 2023 at 4:00 pm, to mark out the sign and post, Rayna will contact DPW to call for a mark out for utility lines; Goal Install sign by Friday June 2, 2023 All set to go; confirmed utility markout by Director of DPW.
 6. Partnership with North Haledon Community Garden – Garden Beds - one (1) assigned; waiting to hear from Mayor George on the any additional garden beds that are available to Hawthorne residents. Received two (2) additional garden beds from North Haledon; contacted submitted gardeners that applied in January 2023; two (2) have accepted;
- b. **Bird Walks** 2023 Dates Sunday March 26 - 8 Acre Woods, Sunday April 16 - 8Acre Woods, [completed and successful] Wednesday May 10 - Rea Mansion, Saturday May 13 - 8 Acre Woods, Saturday May 27 – Rea Mansion, Sunday June 4 - 8- Acre Woods; Bird Walks start 9 AM Flyers available on Earth Cel Bration Day. Wednesday was a success.
- c. **Help the Hawthorne BEE Defeat Litter** – Partnership with the Hawthorne Rotary Club; Town Wide Clean Up Event –
1. Saturday May 20, 2023 10:00 am to 12:00 pm; Rain Date: Sunday May 21, 2023; Maureen having trouble getting grabbers. Rayna checking on supply. Lisa distributed flyer on Social Media. Press release issued to Tap net Hawthorne and Gazette.
 2. Event Location – Borough Hall Parking Lot; Each person will be given plastic bags and gloves; Hand Grabbers will be given to the first 30 participants; Confirmation of #30 of grabbers will be done after Earth Day. Designated Clean Up Spots (8 Acre Woods, Pool Complex, Gateway to the Passaic River, Wagaraw Ballfield Complex, Center of Town/Louis Bay 2nd Library & Community Center and Diamond Bridge Avenue, Along Grand Avenue towards to the end to Washington Street, etc.); will be assigned to the Participants May include school grounds. Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson, Roosevelt and High School. Need to check with Dr. Spirito
- d. Next Green Team Meeting: Monday May 22, 2023 at 7:30 pm

IV. 31st Cel Earth Bration – Saturday April 22, 2023 Hawthorne High School – 10:00 am to 2:00 pm Please arrive 8:30 AM

- a. Theme Discussion **CELEBRATING 125 YEARS HAWTHORNE HOMETOWN HABITAT.** Thank you to Lisa for posting on Social Media. Tap published Snakes and Scales but not winners. Mayor did in his weekly letter.
- b. Green Project – Below are the students and projects awarded for best project:
1st Grade

1st Place – “Happy Birthday to Budding Hawthorne” by Ram Bhatie – Jefferson School

2nd Grade

1st Place – “Hawthorne’s Wildlife Bald Eagle & Timber Rattlesnake” by Amelia John Jefferson School

3rd Grade

1st Place – “Hawthorne’s Bobcat Endangered Animal” by Norah John and Maxine Ramirez – Jefferson School

4th Grade

1st Place – “The Recycled Mayor Lane” by Milena Antoine – Jefferson School

c. Vendors/Activities

1. Booked – Snakes-N-Scales – two (2) shows 11:00 am and 12:30 pm
2. Hawthorne Historical Society – Confirmed
3. Hawthorne Shade Tree Commission – Confirmed
4. Hawthorne Recycling Program – Confirmed
5. Plant Swap – Leah will work with Peggy Weber on this topic; similar as last year, 2022; Confirmed
6. Craft Workshop – Colour and Whim Studio– Confirmed
7. LMS Games – Confirmed; Commission will purchase prizes – Teachers – Amanda Cardenas and Victoria Sabatino – Rita
8. Food/Refreshments – Pappy’s Juice – Confirmed
9. Ticks Lyme Disease/World Paper USA – Rayna will reach out to Alexandra - Confirmed
10. Tattoos- Rita – Confirmed SHARE for volunteers; PCTI - Ashley Smith
11. Paper maker – Alexandra will contact Sandra if available Sandi is “Workshops with Sandi” - Confirmed If nice outdoors, Need water and electric Indoors do to electrical out lets.
12. Electric car Check with Craig – Confirmed

d. Publicity - Issued Press Release and Photos of Green Project Winners distributed to Tap Into Hawthorne, Gazette, Boro Website, and Facebook

- V. Annual June Environmental Program – Monday June 12, 2023 at 7:30 pm HHS Auditorium Rita will be away so Mary will be the contact person for the school system. Dead line for teacher response June 2ND. Not very hopeful of participation. Rayna sent an email to Director of Math & Science for assistance with the Environmental Program
- a. Discussion on recognizing Citizens and local Businesses - Please think about “potential nominations of people and a green business” to Recognize at the June Environmental Program. Discussed Potential candidates: John Minicozzi for wood donation, John Manke donated trex used for signs.
 - b. Letters to Teachers – Rayna prepared and sent to Dr. Spirito for approval/distribution on April 29, 2023.
 - c. Special Invitations – Mayor, Council, and BOE
 - d. Cell-Earth-Bratton Powerpoint Presentation – Rayna
 - e. Picture Frames for the Certificates – Citizens and Green Business awardee
 - f. Certification – Signature of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Mayor; Rayna will provide blank certifications for the Mayor to sign.
 - g. Publicity – Press Releases & Facebook

VI. Update on Issues and Commissioners Concerns

- a. Discussion of how other towns are larger. Should we combine Green Fair and Earth Day? Earth Day focuses on children and Green Fair focuses on adults. Taken under advisement.

**Joint Meeting Hawthorne Environmental Commission/Green Team
Monday June 12, 2023 at 7:30 pm
Hawthorne High School Auditorium**