



**Virtual Meeting
Hawthorne Environmental Commission- Minutes
June 10, 2021**

Call to Order: Rayna Laiosa, Rosanne Zagatta, Carol Roberston, Pat MacDonnell, Holly Cowen, Lisa DeVos, Mary Mahon, and Mike Mariani
Guests: Charles Stebbins, Alexandra Soteriou, and Maureen Cook

Join Zoom Meeting

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- I. Attendance and Acceptance of Meeting –
 - a. Environmental Commission Minutes – May 13, 2021
Motion by Carol Robertson Second by: Mike Mariani
- II. Planning Board Report – No report provided
- III. Kids Corner Newsletter – No report provided
 - a. Moving Newsletter to Quarterly instead of Monthly – 1) February 2) April/May, 3) June/July/August, and 4) Sept/Oct/Nov
 - b. Summer's will be about bees, insects (June/July/August) – Dawn is working on pollinators, bees, and butterflies
 - c. And then one in Fall (Sep/Oct/Nov)
 - d. **Suggestion/Recommendation** - to include the birds in the seasonal newsletter since different birds are more likely to be seen in each special season.
- IV. Green Team Meeting

- a. 2021 Fall Green Fair Discussion – Discussed moving September date to October 2021; Rayna will follow up with Rob Meier
 - b. Next Virtual ZOOM Meeting: Monday June 28, 2021 at 7:30 pm
- V. 8 Acre Woods Project (Project) Discussion – Partnership with the Borough of Hawthorne, Hawthorne Shade Tree Commission, Downes Tree Service and the Hawthorne Environmental Commission – The Environmental Commission, lead of the Project, has been working with the Shade Tree Commission, Town Arborist, and Downes Tree Service to evaluate and assess the 8 Acre Woods area. Downes has generously donated labor to make the walking trails wider and remove/cut back the bush and tree branches along the walkway. The Commissions (Environmental/Shade Tree) will be working with Downes on dates to complete the work.
- a. **Existing walking trails** – Walkable, but will be widen by Downes Tree Service
 - b. **Conditions of the Existing Trees and bushes** –The trees along the walkways are **not classified** as a “hazard tree” meaning in danger of falling; may be a safety hazard. The trees and the bush along the walkways will be trimmed and cut back. The trees along the walkways that have vines up their tree trunk will be cut down. Jointly – Hawthorne Shade Tree Commission and Environmental Commission will develop the scope of work for Downes; **Update June 2021**– Scope of Work sent to Downes June 2021;
 - c. **Trail Signs** – Rayna will provide the number of trail signs; Total of 15 signs - ((1) Warbler Way, (2) Migrant Meadows, (2) Vireo Vista, (1) Catbird Circle, (2) Oriole View, (1) Llewellyn Lane, (2) Towhee Trail, (2) Grosbeak Grove, (1) Finch Fairway, and (1) Robin Road) that we need to purchase to Rosanne. Rosanne will contact Vacker Signs for Trails and Parks, who purchased our Rain Garden Sign for the Gateway to the Passaic River project; Next Step: Carol, Mary, and Mike will conduct a site visit to confirm the number of signs to purchase on Friday June 11, 2021.
 - d. **Trail Map** - Rayna will provide Mary the County’s updated survey conducted at Goffle Brook Park and 8 Acre Woods. Mary will create an updated 8 Acre Woods Trail Map. Mike M offered a graphic designer to assist with the Trail Map created by Mary Mahon. Next Step: Carol, Mary, and Mike will conduct a site visit to confirm the trail names on Friday June 11, 2021.
 - e. **Educational Platforms** – The educational platforms were installed and funded by a NJDEP grant– open space. The Borough’s Administration will investigate the conditions of the grant to determine if the platforms can be removed or the platforms must be repaired. The Commission will continue to work the Borough’s Administration.
 - f. **Clean Up Dates** – Garbage and Recycling Materials – TBD
- VI. **Anti-Idling Signs** – Carol & Pat Project Leads - Designated Locations – Purchased 30 signs from NJDEP Wag Fields, Pool Complex/Band Shell Area; Cubs field Maitland Ave, HHS field fence, Gateway Area, Boro Hall, Ambulance Corp, and Hawthorne Library; Carol and Pat went out to all the locations and took pictures - Completed
- a. Spacing: 20-25 feet depending on location
 - b. Pool: Total of 4 Signs on Existing Posts that are there along the parking lot and tennis courts; signs exist so all we have to do is put the signs on the posts
 - c. Hawthorne High School Bamford Avenue: Total of 3 Signs on Existing Fence - we need permission form superintendent of schools

- d. Hawthorne Library: Update - Total of 5 Signs - Need 3 Posts Installed in the parking lot; (2) Signs Existing Posts along Lafayette Avenue – Need Library Board Permission
- e. Ambulance building: Total of 2 Signs – Need 2 Posts Installed
- f. Band shell: Total of 2 Signs – Need 2 Posts Installed
- g. Hawthorne Cubs field: Total of 3 Signs installed on Existing Fence
- h. Wagaraw Road Ball fields: Total of 5 Signs - Wag 1 – 2 Signs Need Post Installed (snack stand area); Wag 2 1 Sign on Existing Post; Wag 4- 2 Signs Need Post Installed
- i. Hawthorne Boro Hall: Total of 2 Signs - 1 Sign Existing Post and 1 Sign Installed on Light Post (need brackets)
- j. Gateway at the Passaic River: 1 Sign on Existing Post by handicap
- k. Kohler Soccer Fields: Total of 3 Signs Installed on Existing Fence
- l. **Update - Summary Total of 30 Signs**
 - 1. **Existing Posts/Fences- 4 (Pool) +3 (HHS) + 2 (Library) + 3 (Hawthorne Cubs Field) + 1 (Wag 2) + 2 (Haw Boro Hall) + 1 (Gateway) + 3 (Kohler Field) = 19**
 - 2. **New Posts Installed – 3 (Library) +2 (Ambulance) + 2 (Band Shell) + 4 (Wag field area) = 11**
- m. **Next Steps:** Work with Hawthorne Police Department (HPD) and Hawthorne Environmental Commission (Carol & Pat)– Confirmed Monday May 17, 2021 to confirm/verify location of signs with HPD. Once in Agreement, will communicate to Hawthorne Library Board, and Superintendent of Schools of the proposed Sign Locations and permission to install signs/posts as needed; **Update June 2021:** Carol, Pat, and HPD Lt. Mark Michalski met and conducted a site visit at each of the locations. Library – added two (2) signs to (2) existing posts along Lafayette Avenue; Library Board meeting on Wednesday June 9, 2021 for approval of anti idling project – Board Approved; **Next Step:** Remaining Scope of Work sent to DPW to issue work orders;
- n. Posts and Signs will be installed by Hawthorne Department of Public Works (DPW)

VII. Update on Issues and Commissioners Concerns, Next Step

- a. **Follow Up from the March 11, 2021 Meeting** - Craig – Trex Program – Fair Lawn and Ringwood is collecting plastic bags at their town; Discussed program and requested the following information from Craig as Next Steps: – acceptable locations for the plastic bags, does the locations have enough room for all the plastic collected from the Trex program or do they have designated bins for that program, time commitment, empty bins and time for drop off and weight it. Will report at next’s Commission meeting. – Craig was absent for the May and June meetings and unable to provide an update.
- b. **Gateway to the Passaic River** – Maureen Cook confirmed that a garbage and recycling container is available for area. – Maureen will follow up on the status of the containers
- c. Promote/Educate – the Proper Disposal of Fishing Line in streams/rivers
- d. Deadline May 2022 – Upcoming Ban on Plastic Bags in stores

**Virtual Hawthorne Environmental Commission
ZOOM Meeting
Thursday July 8, 2021**