



**Virtual Meeting
Hawthorne Environmental Commission- Minutes
July 8, 2021**

Call to Order: Rayna Laiosa, Rosanne Zagatta, Carol Roberston, Pat MacDonnell, Holly Cowen, Lisa DeVos, Mary Mahon, Robert Meier and Mike Mariani
Guests: Dawn Zagatta, Alexandra Soteriou, and Craig Cayetano

Join Zoom Meeting

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- I. Attendance and Acceptance of Meeting –
 - a. Environmental Commission Minutes – June 10, 2021
Motion by Rosanne Zagatta Second by: Lisa DeVos
- II. Planning Board Report – Robert Meier reported: former Murphy Bus location – all tenants are filled; Premio expansion – purchased building; new traffic flow pattern, goal of the “new” facility is no longer having vehicles parked on the side streets; 204 Wagaraw Ave – Planet Fitness – request 2nd floor mezzanine – hardship due to 3 acres of wetlands on property; Board requested a traffic study and additional parking for the 2nd floor mezzanine space
- III. Hawthorne Annual Water Quality Report 2020 – Reviewed and discussed the 2020 report with Commissioners. Report posted on Boro’s website
- IV. Kids Corner Newsletter
 - 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 – today (July 8, 2021) sent to Rosanne and Rayna – Will review and approve; Distribute to local newspapers, Facebook, websites, and the library
- 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. – Completed - Added to the Summer 2021 Newsletter

V. Hawthorne Day Saturday September 25, 2021

- a. Educational Awareness – “Hawthorne’s Natural Beauty” – Open Spaces, Birds, Biodiversity, Getting Back to Nature! See Hawthorne’s Nature at its Best!, **“Enjoying the Natural Beauty of Hawthorne”**
 - 1. Hawthorne Green Map
 - 2. Hawthorne Birds
 - 3. Gateway to the Passaic River – Tri-folds, trail maps, - Nesting Boxes, Rain Garden – native plants, stormwater management, trail to the Passaic River
 - 4. 8 Acre Woods – tentatively new trail map
 - 5. Native Plant - Boro Hall and Rain Garden at the Library
 - 6. Hawthorne BEE! – Litter
 - 7. Photo of the Hawthorne’s Community Garden
- b. Tent – Hang the Posters inside the tent with large binder; Banners will be outside of the tent/posters; back to back posters for the sides of the tent; Exhibit – people walk into the tent and review the table documents; easels as back up;
- c. Small table for giveaways – Spinning wheel

VI. Green Team Meeting

- a. 10th Green Fair at the Farmers’ Market – Sunday September 12, 2021 (Rain Date: September 19, 2021)
 - 1. Time of Event 10:00 am to 1:30 pm; set-up 9:00 am
 - 2. Music – Hawthorne local musician – Matt and Kevin – Team agreed to hire a local band from Hawthorne; Rayna will contact
 - 3. Potential Vendors – Contact Them & Request Participation – Open to New Vendors/Organizations – ***Deadline for Commitment – Monday July 26, 2021***
 - 1. Amy Rowe – Rainbarrel/green infrastructure/ water conservation/native plant booth – Rayna will contact
 - 2. Hawthorne Recycling – Maureen Cook – Confirmed
 - 3. “Animals Need You” non-profit organization - Tom – Mary contacted – not sure
 - 4. PCSPCA – Stephanie was going follow up
 - 5. BEAR Management – Doreen – Rayna sent email
 - 6. City Green – Pat contacted
 - 7. Hawthorne Garden Club – Pat contacted Pat Wonder
 - 8. Pandora Healing – will re-assess – no longer in Hawthorne
 - 9. Goffle Brook Farm – donate vegetable seeds – Maureen will contact Donna, Owner
 - 10. Passaic County 4-H Club (Bike Smoothie Demonstration – Rutgers Nutrition) – Rayna will contact
 - 11. Knead-U-Need – Rayna will contact

12. Green Team/Environmental Commission Booth –Community Garden, Container Gardening, Rain Garden, Native Plant Projects, Gateway to the Passaic River -
13. Composting Demonstration – Mary - Confirmed
14. Hawthorne Birds – Holly & Lisa – Confirmed
15. Project Medicine Box – Get literature/information for Green Team booth – Maureen Cook
16. Hawthorne School of Dance – Rosanne will contact Erin – Confirmed
17. The Learning Tree - Lisa will send an email
18. Pilates Fusion Changed to Beyond the Fitness Studio - 973-310-3919– Holly will contact new owner
19. Chet Scents – Soy Candles – Rayna will reach out to Donna
20. Holistic Nutrition for Life – Nutrition - Robin – Mary will contact – unable to attend
21. Electric Car - Park Ave BMW – Craig Confirmed
22. Hawthorne Railroad Association - Will send an email
23. Hawthorne Shade Tree Commission – Rayna will contact Dria
24. Cub Scouts – Kim – Rosanne contacted
25. Girl Scouts – Lauren - Rosanne contacted
26. Lincoln Landscaping “Native Plants” – Maureen contacted Mike
27. Reimagined Design - Stephanie Confirmed
28. A Rock Solid History of Hawthorne NJ – Rosanne will contact Veronica – Confirmed
29. Hawthorne Historical Society – Rosanne will contact Veronica – Confirmed
30. Bee Habitat – Mary Kostus – Holly will text Lianna for contact information
31. Yoga with Gianna – Holly will contact Gianna
32. DVRT – More appropriate National Night Out in August
33. Hawthorne Fire Department – Rosanne contacted
34. Fyke Nature Association – will re-assess – team agreed to not to pursue organization
35. Anti-Idling Table – Be part of the Hawthorne Environmental Commission/Green Team Table
36. Wildbird Unlimited – Lisa will contact Owner
37. Farmer’s Market Vendors –Rob Meier
38. North East Jersey Beekeeper Association – Richard Stellingwerf at 201-693-2571 – Rosanne contacted
39. World Paper USA/Tick Information – Alexandra – Confirmed
40. Vegan Lifestyle – No farm animals; educate to promote plant based choices– Elisabeth Barker
41. Solar Company – Craig will contact
42. Plug In EV Charger – Nick will email
43. Passaic River Coalition – Rayna will contact Laurie Howard
44. Passaic County – Rayna contacted the Parks/Recreation dept; waiting for response

b. Next Virtual ZOOM Meeting: Monday July 26, 2021 at 7:30 pm

- VII. 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. **Goals:** Preserve the natural habitat; keeping the secret places for the animals – dead wood/trees will remain on the ground/woods; keeping the bushes/berries along the trails – only pruning back the bushes; cut the bottom of the invasive plants and vines on the trees along the trails – this will stop the continue flow of water and nutrients resulting in the vines/plants will die and drop to the ground; will allow the existing trees to breathe
- b. **Existing walking trails** – Walkable, but will be widen by Downes Tree Service
- c. **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; Tentatively scheduled in July 2021 – Confirmed - Saturday July 10, 2021- Shade Tree Commission Arborist, Kevin Alberta and Environmental Commission Chair, Rayna, will met with Downes Tree Service.
- d. **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. Completed; On June 18, 2021, Carol, Mary, and Rayna conducted another site visit to re-count the trail signs. ***Carol will provide an Update on the Number of Trail Signs that need to be Purchased-completed*** – We need to Purchase 6 Signs from the original 15 signs – (1) Warbler Way, (1) Catbird Circle, (1) Oriole View, (1) Llewellyn Lane, (1) Finch Fairway, and (1) Robin Road. **Next Step:** Rosanne will request proposals from Vacker Sign and Bernstein companies.
- e. **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. Completed; On June 18, 2021, Carol, Mary, and Rayna conducted another site visit to re-confirm trails and added new trails to the map – Robin Road; Mary created a hand drawn updated Trail Map.
- f. **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 and Public Works.
- g. **Clean Up Dates** – Garbage and Recycling Materials – TBD – Late Fall of 2021

VIII. **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. **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**
- c. Posts and Signs will be installed by Hawthorne Department of Public Works (DPW) - As of end of June 2021, existing posts/fences anti idling signs are posted; DPW is working on the installation of posts. Pat MacDonnell Status Update of July 2021 – Gateway done, no signs at ballfields, post installed at the library, but no signs; (1) boro hall Mayor’s parking space, (3) haw pool,

IX. 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. July Update – Craig provided the following information – Fair Lawn Rotary Club is collecting plastic bags; 6 people; collecting the plastic bags at private residents homes; plastic bags are dropped off at Whole Foods; (1) person is weighing the bags and communicating it to trex. So far, no contamination has been identified; no response from Ringwood
- 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. **CHCC** – Concern about the 150 feet buffer area between CHCC and Hawthorne’s property line; work is being conducted; recommended that the Commissioner contact Hawthorne’s Zoning Officer;

**Virtual Hawthorne Environmental Commission
ZOOM Meeting – Rescheduled to**

Thursday August 19, 2021 at 7:30 pm

And

Green Team Monday August 30, 2021 at 7:30 pm