Native Habitat Collaborative – Meeting Notes 6/17/25

A recording of the morning meeting can be found here – the evening meeting was not recorded.

- The Native Habitat Collaborative met for the first time in 2 sessions on 6/17/25.
- Jenn Rogers from Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space opened the meeting with remarks about the formation of the group and agenda for the meeting.
    - Purpose of the Native Habitat Collaborative
    - Introductions - Getting to know each other
    - Identify needs and wants for the group
    - Planning a path forward
- Terry Smith of the Pollinator Posse introduced the purpose and plan
    - Cofounder of the Pollinator Posse in California and now New Jersey with a focus on outreach, education and community science
    - Based on experience with Monarch Working Groups in California
    - Volunteering to facilitate the group as part of work for Pollinator Posse and as a Rutgers Environmental Steward project
    - Both the title of the group and mission statement are in working status and open to input and discussion – current draft version is below
        - ***Native Habitat Collaborative***
        - *The Native Habitat Collaborative is a gathering of interested community members, natural resource professionals, scientists, non-profit organizations, and land managers who meet to discuss and share their work. Meetings are open to anyone and consist of the sharing of programs and ideas, discussion of conservation topics, and/or presentations by experts on topics of overall interest. The group participants support the establishment, restoration and enhancement of native habitat. The overriding purpose is to build on and amplify each participant's conservation and outreach efforts through cooperation, collaboration and support.*
    - The purpose today is to discuss and plan
- Those attending introduced themselves and suggested future possibilities for the group including but not limited to:
    - Working with family groups on outreach
    - Encouraging state funding for planting of native plants
    - Professional development for landscapers at schools and beyond
    - Explore ways to be more green around the schools
    - Help develop curriculum around rain gardens at the schools

    - Developing partnerships to share the workload and increase efficiency
    - Central way to communicate to synergize our work
    - Bring in speakers on topics of interest to the group
        - Deer management
        - PSE&G habitat work on rights of way
        - Ernst Seeds rep
    - Source experts/leaders through the group for events/walks/talks
    - Cross promoting of events
    - Develop a pool of interested volunteers
    - Shared calendar
    - Supporting families that want to get out in nature
    - List of available resources
    - Promoting events through the Hopewell School District – Friday Focus
    - Facebook Group for Native Habitat Collaborative?
    - Focus on the native habitat not just generally getting folks outdoors
    - Mapping of projects
    - Directory of work everyone is doing – reference document
    - Share successful strategies and practices – especially for maintenance by volunteers
    - Project Needs list to refer folks who are looking for a project
    - Conversation about deer management
    - Possibly more that I didn't get recorded…. Please let me know if I missed anything
- Meeting Frequency
    - Monthly meetings – at least for now
    - Not 3rd Tuesday due to conflicts with other conservation meetings – let us know of other conflicts going forward
- Action Items So far
    - Email Google group – Done Terry
    - Google Drive Folder to share documents – Done Terry
    - Group Roster on Google Drive – Done Terry
    - Group Directory of participant organizations – in process – Terry and group
    - Common Calendar – in process
    - Shared list of available resources
    - Do we need a tagline to sum up our purpose? Logo?

- Potential Project List to
- Speaker Resource List