

**Washington Township Green Team**  
**Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Washington Township Municipal Building**  
**Monday, February 6th, 2023 6:30pm**

Members present: Chairman Dan Ross, Treasurer Paula Ross, Members Tom Walsh, John Holt, Ed Carpenito, Carl Brand, Valerie Walsh (via telephone) and Committee Liaison Bill Roehrich

Members Absent: Amanda Mesa

Others Present: Bob Falcone – resident of Long Valley, former Green Team member interested in remaining involved where possible and Lisa Gizas – Biology & Sports Science teacher at WMCHS and co-lead of the WMCHS Green Team.

**Meeting Called to Order:** 6:33 PM

**Administrative:**

Dan announced that Bob Falcone resigned from the Green Team so that he can join the Historic Preservation Commission per township rules regarding volunteer committee membership. Dan also announced that Carl Brand has officially join the team and that Bill Roehrich has been assigned as the team's new Township Committee liaison.

The December meeting minutes were approved as is with no changes needed. Paula motioned to accept, and Ed seconded.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Paula reported that \$123.91 was decremented from our account to pay for new team member jackets. The current balance is \$1,563.63

**Old Business:**

**Harrington Park:**

The DPW has mowed the meadow at Harrington Park. The nature trail will be shifted to get it out of the wetland area and the interpretative sign was removed for relocation in the spring. The barberry that was in the meadow also got mowed down.

Dan indicated that we will not be mulching the bioswale this spring. In lieu of mulching we will just rake and spread what is already there.

Kathy Smith from the LV Garden Club has offered to donate native plants from her garden. Ed indicated that he has some plants that he can donate as well. Paula will reach out to other garden club members to see if they can also contribute. We will also need clean off the interpretive signs and freshen up the mailbox around the meadow.

Dan cleaned out 4 of the 5 bluebird boxes in the meadow. He needs to bring a tool to get the last of them opened for cleaning.

Paula suggested we submit Harrington Park for the National Wildlife Federation's Garden for Wildlife recognition.

### **EV Charging Stations:**

John said that he has three companies that are potential candidates for us, Green Spot, EV Connect and Charge Point. Green Spot will install and maintain the stations at no charge to the township, they are compensated through the use of the station. John is trying to identify two locations in town where the stations can be installed, ideally one on the mountain and one in the valley. The municipal building was identified as a potential location. Other suggested locations included the library, the police station, the MUA and the fire houses. Ed will mention this at his library board meeting tomorrow evening. Lisa mentioned that the high school might be a good location but that would have to be approved by the school board. It was also pointed out that the high school may not want strangers on the school property charging their cars while school is in session for security reasons.

### **New Business:**

#### **Sustainable NJ:**

Montclair State University students will help develop a plan for a green business recognition program at no cost to the town. Dan applied for this assistance and is waiting to hear if there is a student interested in working with us this year.

Unfortunately, the deadline for applying for a sustainable NJ grant was February 10<sup>th</sup>. We need to keep this in mind for next year so we can get started sooner on applying for this.

Dan is considering applying for a grant to fund an Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) of our township facilities.

#### **Upcoming Projects and Events:**

National "skip the straw" day is 2/25 and invasive species awareness is 2/20 through 2/26.

Suggestions included:

- Paula suggested that perhaps we can put up a skip the straw flyer at the Coffee Potter.
- John suggested that we may want to ask the town to highlight these events on the township website.
- Bob indicated that he can post something on the Patch which has a fairly wide readership in town.
- Ed will check with the library to see if they can promote this as well.

On March 4, (tentative date) we will conduct a knotweed eradication trial at Mill Pond Park. Supplies needed are 10'x10', ½ inch wire mesh, stakes to hold the mesh down and a sign explaining what it is and why it is being done.

Raritan River clean-up will be held on April 15 at the same locations as last year.

## **Open Discussion:**

Paula indicated that the DEP had no more winterberry available for sale. Of what is still available Dan indicated an interest in spicebush and pawpaw. The cost is \$1.25 per plant or either \$25 or \$31.25 per bundle depending on the type of plant. Mixed bundles are not an option.

Kohler Park will be undergoing a wetlands engineering study in connection with the proposed trail around the pond. As such, we need to coordinate dates with the town before we do any planting there.

John inquired whether the chlorination of the water in NJ is something we should be concerned about. Dan indicated that this has been going on for some time now, the only difference is a change in the chemicals being used.

Lisa gave us an update on the high school Green Team activities including:

- The holiday light recycling was a big success. They plan on doing this again this holiday season and would like to coordinate with the town to get another collection site somewhere on town property (e.g. municipal building, library). The Randolph recycling center paid them a small compensation per pound for the recycled lights.
- They conducted a holiday “give an experience not a gift program” among their members. One thing that they did was constructed holiday decorations out of old music sheets.

Paula suggested that Lisa may want to investigate the Trex recycle plastic bags to benches program. The Green Team was able to obtain 2 benches at Harrington using this program.

Ed informed the team that the library will be holding a program on bird migrations sponsored by the Audubon Society sometime in March. They are also looking into holding an environmental film festival at the library.

Paula indicated that the town chipped 376 Christmas trees that were brought to them.

Bill said that the town is taking down more than 900 ash trees; there is no current plan to replace the trees that are being taken down. Paula suggested that we promote a remove a tree, plant a tree program among the town residents who are removing trees on their own.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:22**