



**Environmental Commission Minutes  
November 9, 2017**

Call to Order: Rayna Laiosa, Pat MacDonnell, Robert Maggio, Mike Mariani, and Robert Meier  
 Guests: Mary Mahon, Carol Robertson, and Liana Romano

- I. Attendance and Acceptance of Meetings:
  - a. Environmental Commission/Green Team Minutes – September 7, 2017
  - b. Environmental Commission – October 5, 2017  
 Motion by: Robert Meier, Second by: Pat MacDonnell
  
- II. NJDEP Press Release – November 1, 2017 NJDEP Moving Forward with Science Based Health Standards for PFOA AND PFNA – Christie Administration
  - a. New Jersey will become the first state to set formal Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) requiring statewide testing of public drinking water systems for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA).
  - b. NJDEP has also formally proposed a standard in August 2017 of 13 parts per trillion for PFNA, also recommended by the Drinking Water Quality Institute, a panel comprised of the state’s leading drinking water experts.
  - c. The DEP has accepted the New Jersey Drinking Water Quality Institute’s recommended drinking water standard of 14 parts per trillion for PFOA. NJDEP must formally propose PFOA in the New Jersey Registry. No timeline on the issuance of the proposed rulemaking
  - d. Discussed recent articles in the Gazette and Bergen Record
  - e. Rayna will follow-up with Mayor Goldberg and Eric Maurer to discuss latest developments on PFOA and PFNA
  
- III. Planning Board Report – Mary Lou DiMattia/Robert Meier – No Update
  
- IV. Zoning Board of Adjustment
  - a. Royal Avenue Project – Monday October 16, 2017 at 6:45pm – Environmental Commission submitted an Environmental Report to Zoning Board Secretary on October 24, 2017; Next Meeting on Monday November 20, 2017 at 6:45 pm
  
- V. Proposed 2018 Environmental Commission Meeting Dates – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday – Discussed and Approved

January 11, 2018
February 8, 2018
March 8, 2018
April 12, 2018
May 10, 2018
June 11, 2018 – Annual Environmental Program
July 12, 2018

August 9, 2018
September 6, 2018 (1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday)
October 11, 2018
November 8, 2018
December 13, 2018

**Notes:**

Saturday April 21, 2018 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Cel Earth Bration – HHS  
 Saturday September 22, 2018 – 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Hawthorne Day

VI. Proposed 2018 Green Team Meeting Dates – 4<sup>th</sup> Monday – Discussed and Approved

January 29, 2018
February 26, 2018
March 26, 2018
April 23, 2018
May 21, 2018 (3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday)
June 25, 2018
July 23, 2018
August 27, 2018
September 24, 2018
October 22, 2018
November 26, 2018
December 13, 2018

**Notes:**

Sunday September 9, 2018 – 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Green Fair at the Farmers’ Market  
 Rain Date Sunday September 16, 2018 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Green Fair

VII. Borough Council– Introduced Noxious Weeds Ordinance Discussion – It was the consensus of the members (4 to 1) present that Ordinance No. 2197-17: Article II was much too broad and lending the ordinance to many interpretations. It was also viewed as an invasion of the rights of the property owners, whom cultivate said plants (some of which are native plants) on their property. It would be most difficult for the Borough of Hawthorne to enforce the ordinance since many of the said plants may be spread by seeds and beyond the control of the property owners.

Members of the Commission recommend through education and positive promotion of environmental concerns that would make residents aware and conscientious of such noxious weeds and plants. In addition, the Commission recommends an alternative to the amended Ordinance by establishing a Community Dispute Resolution Committee to address noxious weeds and neighborhood disputes. For example, Morristown and Sparta has established Community Dispute Resolution Committee.

Rayna will prepare and send Environmental Commission’s letter of recommendation to the Council President, Mayor, and Business Administrator

VIII. 2017 Budget and 2018 Proposed Budget –

- a. 2017 - Discussion \$252 remaining; will be utilized to print Thank You Cards for the Commission and Green Team
- b. 2018 – Proposed budget of \$9500 submitted to Eric Maurer and Mayor Goldberg; includes \$3,500 for native plants in the front of the municipal building

IX. Green Team Subcommittee Meeting

- a. Community Garden

1. Harvest Celebration– October 21, 2017 at 4:00 pm Ambulance Building Corp – Confirmed; Need to send a follow-up email to the gardeners - Pat MacDonnell
  2. First Refusal for 2018 Garden Season – communicate
- b. Native Plant Project
    1. Sustainable Jersey – Accepted our Final Grant Report
  - c. **Next Green Team November 27, 2017 Hawthorne Library**
- X. Hawthorne Borough’s Website – Upgrade – Need assistance
- XI. Update on Issues and Commissioners Concerns, Next Steps
- a. Bird Watching Program – Liana Romano – Commission is interested in having a Green Lecture, Bird Watching tour of Goffle Brook Park in the Spring 2018
  - b. 8 Acre Woods Clean-up – Bob Maggio – will send photos to Rayna; Rayna follow-up with DPW – Bob Scully and Maureen Cook

**Environmental Commission/Green Team Joint Meeting  
December 14, 2017 at 7:30 pm  
Municipal Building**