



**Virtual Meeting
Hawthorne Green Team Committee Minutes
March 31, 2025**

Call to Order: Rayna Laiosa , Mary Mahon, Mike Marini, Pat MacDonnell, Holly Cowen, Charles Stebbins, Maureen Cook, Craig Cayetano, Rita Pinelli, Mike Turco, Janet Turco, Jacob Vander Pyl, and Chris Nowell (EZ Ride)

Gardeners: Susan Green, Heather Norman, Jim Alimena, Shante Singletary, Stephanie Apgar, Peggy Weber, Chris Tamburro, Barbara Pisacane, Mone’t Kendall Turner, Eric and Antonia Squires

Join Zoom Meeting

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Green Team Purpose

- Making community life sustainable in a way that minimizes environmental harm and depletion of natural resources
- Framework is based on the Sustainable Jersey Certification

Topics Discussed on February 24, 2025

- a. Review Hawthorne Green Team – Minutes February 24, 2025 – Approved
- b. 2025 Community Garden Meeting – Welcome to Our 2025 Growing Season
 1. Welcome our New 2025 Community Gardeners – Susan Green, Shante Singleton, Antonia Squires, and Mone’t Kendall Turner
 2. Garden Bed Assignments – Discussed - New Gardeners - Saturday April 5, 2025 at Community Garden at 10:00 AM and give out garden keys.

3. Rules/Regulations - Presented and questions answered. Importance – organic gardening; no pesticides/herbicides, Gardeners are required to remove the weeds and grasses in the walkways, around the garden beds, and inside the garden beds. Motto of the Garden “You see a weed, remove the weed.” It is everyone’s responsibility. Remember to close the community garden door entering and exiting the garden; tool shed – garden tool equipment; two (2) garden hoses
 4. Pest Management Information – Natural/Organic Pest Management Practices Discussed; Please refer to the Rutgers Organic Weed and Pest Management Program document. It is posted on our Hawthorne Environmental Commission - Community Garden Webpage. <https://www.hawthornenj.org/DocumentCenter/View/3056/Rutgers-Organic-Weed-and-Pest-Management-Program>
 5. Water Turn Off/On- Hawthorne DPW is responsible for turning on and off the water system; typical in April/May (on)and October (off)
 6. Tool Shed and bench container – garden tools for the gardeners
 7. Zero Waste Policy – Giving Tuesdays starting in August 2025; donate excess produce to Hawthorne’s Food Pantry
 8. Bulletin Board - - Post Rules/Regulations and Garden Bed Assignments
 9. Goffle Brook Farms – Partner of the Hawthorne Environmental Commission/green Team; Very good source of products, information; Generously donated \$10 gift card certificate to all gardeners.
 10. Weed clean up emphasized, no new mulch this year. A suggestion of paving stones introduced.
 11. Spring Cleaning of Community Garden - Wednesday April 16, 2025 at 9:00 am. Structural, a local company, in Hawthorne will providing volunteer hours to perform a spring clean up of our community garden. Please bring rakes and shovels. All are welcome to participate.
 12. Communication – Emails, Facebook, and Phone Calls - Request Member Access to our Facebook NJ Community Garden – Gardeners Only - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/236885886511874>; Hawthorne NJ Community Garden
- c. Green Lecture – Thursday April 3, 2025 at 7:00 pm Louis Bay 2nd Library – Hawthorne Recycling Program by Maureen
- d. Sustainable Jersey Re-Certification – 1st Deadline February 23, 2025 Met Deadline – Submitted Phase 1 SJ Action Plans Completed
1. Approved Sustainable Jersey Action Plans
 - a. Brownfield Assessment & Investigation 12/31/2025 expires – 20 points
 - b. Natural Resource Inventory – **Priority** – 20 points
 - c. Tree Protection Ordinance No expiration date – 10 points
 - d. Tree Planting 12/31/2025 expires – 10 points
 2. Sustainable Jersey Action Plans – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database – Met February 23, 2025 Initial Deadline
 - a. Green Team – Mandatory –Resolution – Passed Council January 22, 2025 – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database Maureen working on
 - b. Green Grounds & Maintenance Policy – Re-Adopt Policy –Council January 22, 2025 – Distributed to departments; Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database Maureen working on
 - c. Environmental Commission – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
 - d. Community Partnership & Outreach – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database

- e. Green Fair – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
 - f. Prescription Drug & Safety – **Priority** – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
 - g. Emergency Communication Planning – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
 - h. Anti Idling was agreed upon with the Police, Town and Green Tea.
 - i. Hawthorne Community Garden – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
 - j. Municipal Communication Strategy - Sent to Boro on January 18, 2025 for review and update – received; Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
 - k. Digitizing Public Information – Sent to Boro on January 18, 2025 for review and update – received; Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
 - l. Farmers’ Market and Accessible Farmers’ Market – In Process; waiting for information from Chamber to finalize documents; received; Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
 - m. Community Food Pantry/Bank & Soup Kitchen – In-Process – Completed and Uploaded SJ Database
 - n. Community Paper Shredding Day – In Process; waiting for additional information from Boro; received; Completed and Uploaded SJ Database
 - o. Recycling Depot – In Process; received updated photos; Completed and Uploaded SJ Database
 - p. Brownfield Inventory & Prioritization – In Process - Review Updated 2025 Brownfield Inventory with Commissioners – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
 - q. Mayor’s Wellness Program – In Process - Sent to Boro on January 26, 2025 and Mary Mahon for requested information; received information from various departments and organizations; Senior & Youth completed; In Process – Employees & Community – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
 - r. Community Asset Planning – Hawthorne Green Map – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
 - s. Buy Local Campaign - Map – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
 - t. Support Local Campaign - Map – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
 - u. Recycled Materials & Composting – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
3. Sustainable Jersey Action Plans – To be Updated - 2024/2025 Activities - 2ND round May 16th, 2025 Deadline
- a. Non-Mandated Materials Recycling – In Process (need 2024 Annual Recycling Tonnage Report – will be submitted to NJDEP by April 30, 2025)
 - b. Household Hazardous Waste – In Process (need 2024 Annual Recycling Tonnage Report – will be submitted to NJDEP by April 30, 2025)
 - c. Recycling & Waste Reduction Education & Compliance – **Priority** Green Lecture to be set up at Library on Recycling, Maureen to present on April 3RD 7-8:30. Mary contacted Library all set.
 - d. Sustainable Land Use Pledge - **Priority** - Prepared documents; waiting for response from SJ – Borough of Hawthorne Adopted Pledge in Re Exam 2022 Master Plan Elements in July 2022; SJ responded via email – must have a resolution and distribute to appropriate departments and boards - Council Meeting Re-Adoption of Resolution -March 19, 2025
 - e. Vulnerable Population Identification for Emergencies – Sent to Police for review
 - f. Fleet Inventory – **Priority**

- g. Anti Idling Education & Enforcement Program - Discussion of Letter prepared by Janet Turco; Rayna will ask Police and Superintendent to partner with Green Team to add validity to Press release and flyer.
 - h. Safe Routes to School - Chris Nowell, EZRide program presented Green Complete Street Policy for Hawthorne to reach the Gold Level. Currently, Hawthorne is at the Silver Level for Safe Routes to School (certified in 2023; expires in 2026 (3 year certification)). Need to review the website. There are 3 tiers. Bike and Pedestrian flashing lights. Bike and walk audits. EZ Ride is a volunteer organization that can help in achieving the next level, Gold. They also have a lending library.
 - i. Community Forestry Management Plan & NJUCF Accreditation – Received Information
 - i. Tree Hazard Inventory
 - ii. Tree Maintenance Programs
 - j. Innovative Project – Silver Girl Scout Badge Project - Received information/documentation from Melissa/Zoe
- e. 33rd Annual Cel Earth Bration – Saturday April 26, 2025 – Hawthorne High School
- a. Discussion of theme and T-shirt design: Water = Life T-shirts have been ordered Delivery by April 25th
 - b. Potential Vendors
 - 1. Hawthorne Fire Department– regarding the wildfires Getting Back to Rayna
 - 2. Colour and Whim. Mary will contact owners – No - Mary will do table asked for Laundry bottle caps. Thanks to Sharon for local Hawthorne Laundry mat as a source of the caps.
 - 3. Food/Refreshments - Pappy’s Juice Mary contacted - Yes
 - 4. Hawthorne Shade Tree Commission – Yes
 - 5. Snakes and Scales Maureen will contact – Confirmed – Two (2) shows at 11:00 am and 12:30 pm
 - 6. Hawthorne Birds – Holly – Yes
 - 7. Hawthorne Recycling Program - Yes
 - 8. Plant Swap- Mary will contact Peggy Weber – Yes Maureen to put out Nixel alerts in 2 week intervals.
 - 9. Paper Making Mary will contact Sandie - No
 - 10. Hawthorne Historic Society - Yes
 - 11. Alexandria – World Paper and Lyme Disease Yes
 - 12. Boy Scouts – Rayna will contact Rich
 - 13. Girl Scouts - Rayna will contact – sent email to Dana Pergola – No
 - 14. LMS Games – Amanda Cardenus and Victoria Sabitino - Mary will follow up
 - 15. Craig will check about Electric Car -No; will participate at the Green Fair.
 - c. Pizza for Volunteers - Maureen – Ordered ten (10) pizza pies from Puzo’s
 - d. Giveaways – LMS Games - Mary will contact Lincoln Middle School teachers – No participation
 - e. Games – Conducted by Hawthorne Environmental Commission - Charles will oversee the volunteers to the games
 - f. Tattoos – Need Volunteers
 - g. Registration Table - Jacob - Yes
 - h. Volunteers – Rayna reached out to Hawthorne High School and Lincoln Middle School - Ryan McMann – HHS Honor Society, Cynthia Dockray; Rachel Green, Andrea Napolitano 8th graders
 - i. Publicity – Press Release – Rayna submitted to Tap Net, Gazette, Borough, Flyer – Completed and distributed, Facebook, Electronic Messaging Board, Boro Hall Electronic Board, Nixle – Maureen will setup

- j. Photographer – Mike Mariani
 - k. Poster – Schedule of Events - Maureen will bring White Boards
 - l. Lawn Signs – Mike has signs; will double check on the number of signs
- f. Open Discussion
1. Janet brought up an odor by the waterway between the Hawthorne Post Office and St. Anthony's parking lot. Rayna sent an email Sunday night to DPW and Boro Administration. Rayna will follow up
 2. Chris brought up pending legislation of a Climate Super Fund allowing law suits against fossil fuel companies. Response will bring the legislative resolution to council. Added the Environmental Commission does not usually get involved with legislation.

Virtual Hawthorne Green Team ZOOM Meeting April 2025 – To Be Discussed – Cancelled

VISION STATEMENT

Hawthorne is committed to protecting our natural resources while meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising those of future generations.

Sustainability means:

- Protecting our open spaces, and conserving our natural resources with waste reduction and recycling
- Promoting environmental education, and energy efficiency to residents and businesses alike
- Considering environmental, economic, and social impacts to future development
- Improving community health and quality of life for every citizen