



**Virtual Meeting  
Hawthorne Environmental Commission – Minutes  
April 17, 2025**

**Call to Order:** Rayna Laiosa, Mary Mahon, Holly Cowen, Rob Meier, Pat MacDonnell, and Maureen Cook

**Guests:** John Bosloper, Judi Bosloper, Mike Turco, Janet Turco, Jacob Vander Pyl, Samantha Eloy, Montclair Student

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- I. Attendance and Acceptance of Meeting
  - a. Hawthorne Environmental Commission – Minutes March 13, 2025  
Motion by: Robert Meier, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pat MacDonnell
  
- II. Hawthorne Planning Board – Robert Meier – No report provided; Rayna informed the Commission Affordable Housing Plan for Round 4 will be issued and discussed at the Planning Board.
  
- III. Green Team Meeting
  - a. Community Garden
    1. Structural, Hawthorne Business –Wednesday April 16, 2025 Conducted Spring Clean Up at the Community Garden – 8:30 am Looks good, Rayna took pictures forwarding to Pat. Pat will send e-mail to gardeners to remove purple weeds.
  - b. Bird Walks – Spring 2025 – Saturday April 5, 2025 – Goffle Brook Park, Sunday May 4, 2025 – Goffle Brook Park – Changed to 8 Acre Woods, Wednesday May 7, 2025 Goffle Brook Park, Saturday May 31, 2025 8 Acre Woods, and Sunday June 8, 2025 8 Acre Woods, time 9 AM. Holly reported a

- good turnout and new people. Also, people will stop her and tell her how they see so much more on their walks from the Bird walks.
- c. Green Lecture – Hawthorne Recycling Program April 3, 2025 – well attended – total of 12 participants
  - d. Next Green Team Meeting: April 28, 2025 Cancelled
- VI. Sustainable Jersey- 1<sup>st</sup> Deadline February 23, 2025; 2<sup>nd</sup> Deadline May 16, 2025, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Deadline July 31, 2025
- a. Approved Sustainable Jersey Action Plans
    1. Brownfield Assessment & Investigation 12/31/2025 expires – 20 points
    2. Natural Resource Inventory – **Priority** – 20 points
    3. Tree Protection Ordinance No expiration date – 10 points
    4. Tree Planting 12/31/2025 expires – 10 points
  - b. Sustainable Jersey Action Plans – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database – Met the February 23, 2025 Deadline
    1. Green Team – Mandatory –Resolution – Passed Council January 22, 2025 – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
    2. Green Grounds & Maintenance Policy – Re-Adopt Policy –Council January 22, 2025 – Distributed to departments; Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
    3. Environmental Commission – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
    4. Community Partnership & Outreach – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
    5. Green Fair – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
    6. Prescription Drug & Safety – **Priority** – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
    7. Emergency Communication Planning – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
    8. Hawthorne Community Garden – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
    9. Municipal Communication Strategy - Sent to Boro on January 18, 2025 for review and update – received; Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
    10. Digitizing Public Information – Sent to Boro on January 18, 2025 for review and update – received; Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
    11. Farmers’ Market and Accessible Farmers’ Market – In Process; waiting for information from Chamber to finalize documents; received; Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
    12. Community Food Pantry/Bank & Soup Kitchen – In-Process – Completed and Uploaded SJ Database
    13. Community Paper Shredding Day – In Process; waiting for additional information from Boro; received; Completed and Uploaded SJ Database
    14. Recycling Depot – In Process; received updated photos; Completed and Uploaded SJ Database
    15. Brownfield Inventory & Prioritization – In Process - Review Updated 2025 Brownfield Inventory with Commissioners – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
    16. 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
    17. Community Asset Planning – Hawthorne Green Map – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database

18. Buy Local Campaign - Map – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
  19. Support Local Campaign - Map – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
  20. Recycled Materials & Composting – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database Four small updates.
  - c. 1<sup>st</sup> Round of SJ Comments – Received end of March 2025 – Resubmitted Updated Documents – April 6, 2025
    1. Brownfield Inventory & Prioritization - Matrix
    2. Community Outreach – Annual June Environmental Program
    3. Green Team – Text Box – the narrative text was cut off
    4. Community Garden – Remove Garden Bed Assignments Figure
  - d. Sustainable Jersey Action Plans – To be Updated - 2024/2025 Activities - 2<sup>ND</sup> round Deadline May16th, 2025
    1. Non-Mandated Materials Recycling – In Process (need 2024 Annual Recycling Tonnage Report – will be submitted to NJDEP by April 30, 2025) Still waiting for numbers
    2. Household Hazardous Waste – In Process (need 2024 Annual Recycling Tonnage Report – will be submitted to NJDEP by April 30, 2025)
    3. Recycling & Waste Reduction Education & Compliance – **Priority Green Lecture** to be set up at Library on Recycling, Maureen to preside April 3<sup>RD</sup> 7-8:30. Need to Create Publicity Documents – Press Release, Facebook, etc. Mary contacted Library all set.; March 10, 2025 - Code Officer provided 2024 and January to March 2025 Recycling Inspections and Violations Report for Action Plan. Maureen to ask Mayor to add Green Lecture to his weekly newsletter - Completed.
    4. 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 – Discussed Re-Pledging of Sustainable Land Use Pledge and Practices – **Completed & Uploaded into SJ System April 6, 2025**
    5. Vulnerable Population Identification for Emergencies – Sent to Police for review
    6. Fleet Inventory – **Priority** Need to be put in Resolution although already exists.
    7. Anti Idling Education & Enforcement Program - Discussion of Letter prepared by Janet Turco; A big Thank You to Janet. Discussion followed on how to promote. Ask Police and Superintendent to partner with Green Team to add validity to Press release and flyer. Rec'd Responses back from Superintendent and Police Chief – All Good! We will publicity the information – Tap Net Hawthorne, PTO and HEC website.
    8. Community Forestry Management Plan & NJUCF Accreditation – Working with Hawthorne Shade Tree Commission
      - a. Tree Hazard Inventory Tree Maintenance Programs
    9. Innovative Project – Silver Girl Scout Badge Project – Received information/documentation from Melissa/Zoe. Need to encourage book lending.
    10. Safe Routes for School – Silver Level - - Rayna will submit information.
- VII. 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cel Earth Bration – Saturday April 26, 2025 – Hawthorne High School
- a. School Use Application submitted – Approved in December 2024
  - b. Discussion of theme and T-shirt design
    1. Theme Water = Life – T-Shirts – Black Color

- c. Reuseable Bags – Status Update – We are good with bags; No need to order additional bags for 2025 event
- d. Communication to School System – March 2, 2025 - Sent Letter to Teachers and Registration Forms – Hawthorne School System, Hawthorne Christian Academy, and St. Anthony’s School
  - 1. Deadline: Monday April 21, 2025; Mary is the contact person between the Schools and Hawthorne Environmental Commission Registration Mary to contact Christian Academy and St. Anthony’s.
  - 2. Mary will collect registration forms and create list of participants; Need volunteers Registration Table – Jacob will oversee registration table.
  - 3. Three winners for K-2, 3-5 and 6-8
  - 4. Ribbons – Along with the Ribbon, each winning student will receive a Cel Earth Bration Certificate, in addition to publicity on social media
  - 5. Judges – Need (2) Commissioners/Green Team Members
  - 6. Cel Earth Bration – Layout of Event – Cafeteria – send to HHS Principal
- e. Potential Vendors
  - 1. Hawthorne Fire Department– regarding the wildfires; Waiting for Response
  - 2. Craft Workshop - Mary – Looking for laundry bottle caps. Rayna will bring crayons and markers; Student volunteers requested
  - 3. Food/Refreshments - Pappy’s Juice Mary contacted - Yes
  - 4. Hawthorne Shade Tree Commission – Yes – tree sapling giveaway
  - 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
  - 9. Hawthorne Historic Society – Sent regrets unable to participant
  - 10. Alexandria – World Paper and Lyme Disease Yes
  - 11. Boy Scouts – Rayna will contact Rich – Yes
  - 12. Hawthorne’s Stormwater Program – Bill – Yes
  - 13. Hawthorne Environmental Commission – Yes
  - 14. Hawthorne Green Team – Yes - Mike and Janet at Anti Idling table.
- f. Pizza for Volunteers - Maureen – Ordered ten (10) pizza pies from Puzo’ Arrive 11:30-12.
- g. Giveaways – LMS Games - Mary will contact Lincoln Middle School teachers – No participation – Charles will be in charge of overseeing the Games
- h. Tattoos – Need Volunteers – HHS students
- i. Registration Table - Jacob - Yes
- j. Volunteers – Ryan McMann – HHS Honor Society, Cynthia Dockray; Rachel Green, - Rayna – Created a List of Volunteers provided by the schools. Mary added Andrea Napolitano.
- k. Publicity – Press Release – Rayna will develop and submit, Flyer – Discussed Flyer Design; Rayna will create, Facebook, , Electronic Messaging Board – Haw Police, Boro Hall Electronic Board, and Nixle
- l. Lawn Signs – Mike has 5 signs; we ordered a total of 12 lawn signs from Ridgewood Press
- m. Photographer – Mike Mariani
- n. Poster – Schedule of Events - Maureen will bring White Boards and markers. Set up 8:30.
- o. Sound System for Cafeteria – Karaoke machine – Rayna

VIII. Update on Issues and Commissioners Concerns:

- a. Announcement – Hawthorne’s Plastic Film Program – Launch in May 2025  
Recycling Center purchased a container for this New Addition. Recycling employees will be trained on what is Acceptable and Not Acceptable. South Ward Recycling in Newark will accept plastic film material. South Ward will bundle the plastic and ship to Trex in Virginia. Hawthorne will receive weigh tickets. At this time, we request that the Borough of Hawthorne makes the announcement not the Environmental Commissioners or Green Team members to the community. Do they take X-Ray film? – Rayna will follow Up.
- b. Boy Scouts would like to paint the Containers at the Recycling Center as an Eagle Scout project; Maureen is working with the Boy Scout leader.

**Next Hawthorne Environmental Commission Meeting  
Thursday May 8, 2025 at 7:30 pm**