



**Virtual Meeting
Hawthorne Environmental Commission – Minutes
May 8, 2025**

Call to Order: Rayna Laiosa, Mary Mahon, Holly Cowen, Rob Meier, Mike Mariani, and Maureen Cook

Guests: Mike Turco and Janet Turco

Join Zoom Meeting

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- I. Attendance and Acceptance of Meeting
 - a. Hawthorne Environmental Commission – Minutes April 17, 2025
Motion by: Robert Meier, 2nd Motion by: Pat MacDonnell

- II. Hawthorne Planning Board – Robert Meier – No report reported; Rayna informed the Commission - June Planning Board and Council Meetings - Fair Share and Affordable Housing Plan Round 4 for the Borough of Hawthorne

- III. Green Team Meeting
 - a. Community Garden Ants and white flies. Maureen to have DPW take a look.
 - a. Bird Walks – Spring 2025 – Saturday April 5, 2025 – Goffle Brook Park, Sunday May 4, 2025 – Goffle Brook Park – Changed to 8 Acre Woods, 10 people saw 25 species 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. .
 - c. Next Green Team Meeting: Monday May 19th, 2025

- VI. 33rd Annual Cel Earth Bration – Saturday April 26, 2025 – Hawthorne High School
 - a. Press Release – 2025 Green Project Winners – Boro Website, Tap Into Net, Gazette, Mayor’s weekly letter, and Facebook
 - b. Thank You – Volunteers - Great job Michael and Brenda on the t-shirt.

- VII. Kids Newsletter Spring/Summer 2025 – Water = Life; Excellent job by Rita. Distributed to Hawthorne School System, Hawthorne Library, Tap Into Hawthorne, Gazette, Borough’s website, and Mayor’s weekly newsletter. Discussion on ways on how to communicate newsletter to the schools and the public. Suggestion, Hawthorne Moms, Roosevelt School PTO and Middle School PTO Facebook pages. Bring the Newsletter to the Green Fair and Hawthorne Day in September. Redo 2023 Kids Newsletter to 2025 Newsletter – Summer in Hawthorne.

- VIII. Help the Hawthorne BEE Defeat Litter – Saturday June 7, 2025 – 10:00 am to 12:00 pm (Rain Date: Sunday June 8, 2025); Sponsored by: Hawthorne Rotary, Hawthorne Environmental Commission, and Hawthorne Green Team –
 - a. Publicity - Flyer, Press Release – Rayna will prepare and distribute

- IX. Annual June Environmental Program – Monday June 9, 2025 at 7:30 pm HHS Auditorium
 - a. Discussion on recognizing Citizens and local Businesses - Please think about “potential nominations of people and a green business” to Recognize at the June Environmental Program. Maureen suggested Fisk Alloy, Inc.; Maureen will call and go over criteria for other ideas of compliance.
 - b. Letters to Teachers – Rayna prepared and sent to Dr. Spirito for approval/distribution.
 - c. Special Invitations – Mayor, Council, and BOE
 - d. Cell-Earth-Bratton Powerpoint Presentation – Rayna
 - e. Picture Frames for the Certificates – Citizens and Green Business awardee
 - f. Certification – Signature of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Mayor; Rayna will provide blank certifications for the Mayor to sign.
 - g. Publicity – Press Releases & Facebook

- X. Sustainable Jersey- 1st Deadline February 23, 2025; 2nd Deadline May 16, 2025, and 3rd 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. 1st 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 - 2ND round Deadline May 16th, 2025
1. Non-Mandated Materials Recycling – In Process (need 2024 Annual Recycling Tonnage Report – Hawthorne submitted to NJDEP by April 30, 2025)
 2. Household Hazardous Waste – In Process (need 2024 Annual Recycling Tonnage Report – Hawthorne 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 3RD 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. **Completed & Uploaded into SJ System April 18, 2025**
8. Community Forestry Management Plan & NJUCF Accreditation – Working with Hawthorne Shade Tree Commission - **Completed & Uploaded into SJ System April 18, 2025**
 - a. Tree Maintenance Programs - **Completed & Uploaded into SJ System April 18, 2025**
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. - **Completed & Uploaded into SJ System April 18, 2025**

- XI. Update on Issues and Commissioners Concerns:
- a. Hazardous Waste May 31st 7:30 -2PM. On calendar but suggested Nexil Alert and Mayor's letter.
 - b. Trex will start Saturday May 10, 2025 - Presented to council and posted on Boro's website. When container is full, DPW will drive it to the recycling company, South Ward, in Newark. Container was paid by Hawthorne's Recycling Trust. Painting and decorating the container by Boy Scouts Troop 85. Hawthorne will reach out to Trex when Hawthorne reaches 1,000 pounds of recycling plastic film material. Southward Recycling sends the plastic film material directly to Trex. Recycling plastic film is one of the ways that Hawthorne promotes recycling - saves tax payer money as well as protecting the environment.
 - c. Focus on Hawthorne's Recycling Center- Rita will design a flyer with clip art to show recyclable materials accepted at Recycling Center, 20 items were suggested.

**In-Person Meeting June Environmental Program at
Hawthorne High School
Monday June 9, 2025 at 7:30 pm**