



**Virtual Meeting  
Hawthorne Green Team Committee Minutes  
May 19, 2025**

**Call to Order:** Rayna Laiosa , Mary Mahon, Mike Marini, Pat MacDonnell, Maureen Cook, Craig Cayetano, and Rita Pinelli

**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 May 19, 2025**

- a. Review Hawthorne Green Team – Minutes March 31, 2025 Approved
- b. 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 – Publicity - Flyer, Press Release, Social Media We have 20 grabbers. Maureen to find a bee person – high school student
- c. 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

- d. Recycling One Page Flyer – 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.
- e. Annual June Environmental Program – Monday June 9, 2025 at 7:30 pm Hawthorne High School Auditorium
  1. 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 to follow up on Fisk Alloy. Craig suggested Carlos Bakery as all packaging is now recyclable. Do they compost? Use cooking oil?
  2. Letters to Teachers – Rayna prepared and sent to Dr. Spirito for approval/distribution.
  3. Special Invitations – Mayor, Council, and BOE
  4. Cell-Earth-Bration Powerpoint Presentation – Rayna
  5. Picture Frames for the Certificates – Citizens and Green Business awardee
  6. Certification – Signature of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Mayor; Rayna will provide blank certifications for the Mayor to sign.
  7. Publicity – Press Release & Social Media - Mike will take pictures and give to Rayna. Rayna will return Mike’s USB sticks.
- f. Sustainable Jersey Re-Certification – 1<sup>st</sup> 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 – 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.
3. 1<sup>st</sup> Round of SJ Comments – Received end of March 2025 – Resubmitted Updated Documents – April 6, 2025 **DONE**
    3. Brownfield Inventory & Prioritization - Matrix
    4. Community Outreach – Annual June Environmental Program
    5. Green Team – Text Box – the narrative text was cut off
    6. Community Garden – Remove Garden Bed Assignments Figure
  4. Sustainable Jersey Action Plans – To be Updated - 2024/2025 Activities - 2<sup>ND</sup> round Deadline May 16th, 2025 **SUBMITTED**
    - a. Non-Mandated Materials Recycling – In Process (need 2024 Annual Recycling Tonnage Report – Hawthorne submitted to NJDEP by April 30, 2025) – **Completed & Uploaded into SJ System May 11, 2025**
    - b. Household Hazardous Waste – In Process (need 2024 Annual Recycling Tonnage Report – Hawthorne submitted to NJDEP by April 30, 2025) - **Completed & Uploaded into SJ System May 11, 2025**
    - c. 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. - **Completed & Uploaded into SJ System May 11, 2025**
    - 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 – Discussed Re-Pledging of Sustainable Land Use Pledge and Practices – **Completed & Uploaded into SJ System April 6, 2025**
    - e. Vulnerable Population Identification for Emergencies – Sent to Police for review
    - f. Fleet Inventory – **Priority** Need to be put in Resolution although already exists.

- g. 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**
- h. Community Forestry Management Plan & NJUCF Accreditation – Working with Hawthorne Shade Tree Commission - **Completed & Uploaded into SJ System April 18, 2025**
- i. Tree Maintenance Programs - **Completed & Uploaded into SJ System April 18, 2025**
  - i. Innovative Project – Silver Girl Scout Badge Project – Received information/documentation from Melissa/Zoe. Need to encourage book lending. **Completed & Uploaded into SJ System May 11, 2025**
  - j. Safe Routes for School – Silver Level - - Rayna will submit information. - **Completed & Uploaded into SJ System April 18, 2025**
- 5. Sustainable Jersey Action Plans – To be Updated - 2024/2025 Activities - **3<sup>RD</sup> Round Deadline is July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025**
- g. Open Discussion
  - 1. Facebook Post – Discussion about overgrown underbrush at 8 Acre woods. Thought of fire hazard, Maureen to send a note to Bill
  - 2. Hawthorne’s Green Business Criteria - Discussion on the promotion of recognizing green businesses in Hawthorne. Flyers at Green Fair? Maureen to add Green Business Criteria in recycling annual tonnage letter to businesses at the beginning of each year. Design Decal for winners?

**Joint Hawthorne Environmental Commission/Green Team – Annual June Environmental Program  
June 9, 2025 at 7:30 pm Hawthorne High School Auditorium**

**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