



**Virtual Meeting
Hawthorne Environmental Commission – Minutes
July 10, 2025**

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

Guests: Rita Pinelli, Mike Turco and Janet Turco

Join Zoom Meeting

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- I. Attendance and Acceptance of Meeting
 - a. Hawthorne Environmental Commission – Minutes May 8, 2025
Motion by: Robert Meier, 2nd Motion by: Mike Mariani
 - b. Hawthorne Environmental Commission Annual June Environmental Program – Minutes June 9, 2025
Motion by: Robert Meier, 2nd Motion by: Mike Mariani
- II. Hawthorne Planning Board – Robert Meier - No planning board meetings in July
- III. Green Team Meeting
 - a. Community Garden Communications - Giving Tuesday – Donate Produce to Hawthorne Food Pantry - This will be started in August when the gardens are producing. Hawthorne is one of the few towns that accepts fresh produce; Commissioner – Raised the issue regarding the community garden – fence growing with vines and weeds; Rayna will communicate to the gardeners about weeding – Slogan - See a weed/grass, remove it.
 - b. Find the Hawthorne BEE – Partnership Hawthorne Green Team and Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce - 32 businesses participation; July 1, 2025

- to August 3, 2025 buy local campaign; BEE Grand Celebration & Prize Drawing Sunday August 3, 2025 at 12:00 pm;
- 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 – Completed – flyer looks great; will launch in September 2025 – Green Fair and Hawthorne Day
 - d. Next Green Team Meeting: Monday July 28, 2025
- IV. Kids Newsletter - Redo 2023 Kids Newsletter to 2025 Newsletter – Summer in Hawthorne? – Commission decided – no 2025 Summer Newsletter; Or Fall 2025 Topic? Commission agreed to develop a Fall 2025 Newsletter – Topic agreed upon - Fall Nature walks -activities, pumpkin, apple picking, flower/tree seeds, pine cones; Holly Cowen will provide recommendations to Rita on hike areas in North Jersey;
- a. Publicity/Marketing Ideas - Hawthorne Moms, Roosevelt School PTO and Middle School PTO Facebook pages. Bring the Newsletter to the Green Fair and Hawthorne Day in September.
- V. Help the Hawthorne BEE Defeat Litter – Saturday June 7, 2025 – 10:00 am to 12:00 pm - Sponsored by: Hawthorne Rotary, Hawthorne Environmental Commission, and Hawthorne Green Team – **Re-Scheduled to Saturday October 4, 2025** (Rain Date Sunday October 5, 2025)
- VI. 14th Green Fair Sunday September 7, 2025 (Rain Date September 14, 2025) Time of Event 10:00 am to 1:30 pm; set-up 9:00 am
- a. Hawthorne Environmental Commission Green Team Brochure
 - b. Music – Hawthorne local musician – Matty Z – Rayna will contact
 - c. Potential Vendors – Contact Them & Request Participation – Open to New Vendors/Organizations – **Deadline for Commitment** – Monday August 4, 2025;
 - i. Amy Rowe – Rainbarrel/green infrastructure/ water conservation/native plant booth
 - ii. Hawthorne Recycling – Maureen Cook
 - iii. “Animals Need You” non-profit organization - Tom - No longer will participate
 - iv. PCSPCA – Stephanie
 - v. BEAR Management – Doreen Yes, under the tree – shady spot
 - vi. City Green – Pat
 - vii. Plant Swap - Leah Steenstra Genvario – Commission agreed for Cel Earth Bration, not Green Fair event
 - viii. Hawthorne Gardening Neighborhood Club -Peggy Weber - Hawthorne Gardening Neighborhood Club -Peggy Weber
 - ix. Lyme and Tick Disease/World Paper USA - Alexandra
 - x. Goffle Brook Farm – donate vegetable seeds – Maureen will contact Donna, Owner
 - xi. Passaic County 4-H Club (Bike Smoothie Demonstration – Rutgers Nutrition) –
 - xii. Knead-U-Need
 - xiii. Green Team/Environmental Commission Booth –Community Garden, Container Gardening, Rain Garden, Native Plant Projects, Gateway to the Passaic River - Yes
 - xiv. Neighborhood Composting – Addison – Mary to contact
 - xv. Hawthorne Birds – Holly

- xvi. Project Medicine Box – Get literature/information for Green Team booth – Maureen Cook
- xvii. The Learning Tree
- xviii. Resolve Fitness CrossFit – Wagaraw Road – Did not respond to our invitation last year; team agreed to not pursue this year.
- xix. Electric Car - Park Ave BMW check with Craig
- xx. Hawthorne Shade Tree Commission – Maureen
- xxi. Boy Scouts – Rich M – Rita will follow up
- xxii. Lincoln Landscaping “Native Plants” - Maureen
- xxiii. Reimagined Design - Stephanie
- xxiv. A Rock Solid History of Hawthorne NJ –Veronica
- xxv. Hawthorne Historical Society –Veronica/Jackie
- xxvi. Yoga with Gianna – Rita
- xxvii. Hawthorne Fire Department – Rayna
- xxviii. Hawthorne Ambulance Corp – Rita
- xxix. Wildbird Unlimited –Charles - Did not respond to our invitation last year; team agreed to not pursue this year.
- xxx. Farmer’s Market Vendors –Meg Natale - Yes
- ~~xxxi.~~ Plug In EV Charger – Jesse Carpenter
- xxxii. Passaic River Coalition –Laurie Howard
- xxxiii. Trinity Solar. Julie Saporito-Acuna julie.saporito-acuna@trinity-solar.com; 732-685-1744
- xxxiv. Prestige Pest Services – Favio Ulloa
- xxxv. Bee Hives – Goffle Hill Road – Lt. Hoogmond; Team decided to ask Bee Farmer at the Farmers’ Market for participation since they are selling honey from their beehives in place of Lt. Hoogmond. Daughter of Bee Farmer – Girl Scout Gold Project – “Help Save the Bees” – www.pollinatorsaver.org
- xxxvi. Fair Lawn Amateur Radio – Mary – No longer can participate
- xxxvii. St. Joseph’s Educational Games – Bob Bertollo – Mary will contact
- xxxviii. Passaic County Recycling – Maureen
- xxxix. Passaic County Park & Recreation – Maureen
- d. Tables and Chairs for event – All vendors will provide their own tables and chairs
- e. Publicity
 - i. Press Release, Facebook, Borough’s Website, Electronic Boards at Boro Hall and throughout town
 - ii. Green Fair Signs – Mike and Maureen will double check on the number of lawn signs
 - iii. Green Fair Flyers – Discussed and updated flyer for 2024
 - iv. Special Invitations – Mayor and Council
- f. Giveaways – Dog Tags and Can Opener out of recycled rubber
- g. Contact Police in advance for signs and traffic control

VII. Sustainable Jersey- 1st Deadline February 23, 2025; 2nd Deadline May 16, 2025, and 3rd Deadline July 31, 2025

- i. 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
- ii. Sustainable Jersey Action Plans – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database – Met the February 23, 2025 Deadline

- a. Green Team – Mandatory –Resolution – Passed Council January 22, 2025 – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
 - b. Green Grounds & Maintenance Policy – Re-Adopt Policy –Council January 22, 2025 – Distributed to departments; Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
 - 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. Hawthorne Community Garden – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
 - i. Municipal Communication Strategy - Sent to Boro on January 18, 2025 for review and update – received; Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
 - j. Digitizing Public Information – Sent to Boro on January 18, 2025 for review and update – received; Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
 - k. Farmers’ Market and Accessible Farmers’ Market – In Process; waiting for information from Chamber to finalize documents; received; Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
 - l. Community Food Pantry/Bank & Soup Kitchen – In-Process – Completed and Uploaded SJ Database
 - m. Community Paper Shredding Day – In Process; waiting for additional information from Boro; received; Completed and Uploaded SJ Database
 - n. Recycling Depot – In Process; received updated photos; Completed and Uploaded SJ Database
 - o. Brownfield Inventory & Prioritization – In Process - Review Updated 2025 Brownfield Inventory with Commissioners – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
 - p. 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
 - q. Community Asset Planning – Hawthorne Green Map – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
 - r. Buy Local Campaign - Map – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
 - s. Support Local Campaign - Map – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database
 - t. Recycled Materials & Composting – Completed and Uploaded into SJ Database Four small updates.
- iii. 1st Round of SJ Comments – Received end of March 2025 – Resubmitted Updated Documents – April 6, 2025
 - a. Brownfield Inventory & Prioritization - Matrix
 - b. Community Outreach – Annual June Environmental Program
 - c. Green Team – Text Box – the narrative text was cut off
 - d. Community Garden – Remove Garden Bed Assignments Figure
- iv. Sustainable Jersey Action Plans – To be Updated - 2024/2025 Activities - 2ND round Deadline May16th, 2025
 - 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 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. - **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**
 - a. 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**
- v. Sustainable Jersey Action Plans – To be Updated - 2024/2025 Activities - **3RD round Deadline is July 31st, 2025**
 - a. Anti Idling Education & Enforcement Program – Comments states the following: “Your enforcement plan, priority locations map, and resolution are dated 2022. Please submit documentation that shows a more recent enforcement plan and map. All documentation must be from the current or previous year. If the locations/information has not changed, please indicate so in the narrative. For the resolution, you'll either need to pass a new resolution or provide a letter from your Business Administrator, clerk, etc., that confirms the resolution is still in effect.”

VIII. Update on Issues and Commissioners Concerns: None

Next Virtual Hawthorne Environmental Commission Meeting

Thursday August 14, 2025 at 7:30 pm