



**Virtual Meeting
Hawthorne Environmental Commission – Minutes
August 14, 2025**

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

Join Zoom Meeting

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- I. Attendance and Acceptance of Meeting
 - a. Hawthorne Environmental Commission – Minutes July 10, 2025
Motion by: Pat MacDonnell, 2nd By Rob Meier
- II. Hawthorne Planning Board – Robert Meier – Approval two (2) apartments above Diamond Liquor on Diamond Bridge Avenue
- III. Green Team Meeting
 - a. Community Garden Communications - Giving Tuesday – Donate Produce to Hawthorne Food Pantry; New Garden Hose for new community garden water Tuesday August 5, 2025 delivered - Pat to send e-mails reminding gardeners of Giving Tuesdays and Remove weeds So far, 7 lbs of tomatoes delivered,
 - 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. Fall 2025 Bird Walk discussion Holly will set up schedule for the fall and make flyer

- d. Next Green Team Meeting: Monday August 25, 2025 at 7:30 pm
- V. Hawthorne Day Saturday September 27, 2025
- a. Volunteers Needed Time Slots: 12-2; 2-4
 - b. Hawthorne Environmental Commission Green Team Brochure – Maureen will print out 10 brochures for the event.
 - c. Giveaways Discussion –2024 - pencils and key chains; Will have the wheel to receive a prize; or back to glow in the dark bracelets Rayna to check what they have from last year.
- IV. 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. Hawthorne Green Business Recognition Program Information – Poster/Flyer
 - c. Music – Hawthorne local musician – Matty Z – Rayna will contact -- Booked “Old Man Winters” 10:00 am to 1:00 pm - \$350
 - d. Potential Vendors – Contact Them & Request Participation – Open to New Vendors/Organizations – ***Deadline for Commitment*** – Monday August 4, 2025;
 - i. Paws in Hand – Mary – No
 - ii. Amy Rowe – Rainbarrel/green infrastructure/ water conservation/native plant booth; Mary will contact Amy via phone. No response yet 2 calls
 - iii. Hawthorne Recycling – Maureen Cook; One Pager/Flyer Hawthorne Recycling Center information distribute – Yes
 - iv. PCSPCA – Stephanie – Mary will send email. community@pc-spca.org no response
 - v. BEAR Management – Doreen, under the tree – shady spot - Yes
 - vi. Hawthorne Gardening Neighborhood Club - Peggy Weber - Mary will send email. No response
 - vii. Lyme and Tick Disease/World Paper USA - Alexandra – likely
 - viii. Goffle Brook Farm – donate vegetable seeds – Maureen will contact Donna, Owner
 - ix. Passaic County 4-H Club (Bike Smoothie Demonstration – Rutgers Nutrition) – Mary will contact Amy via phone. No response 2 calls
 - x. Green Team/Environmental Commission Booth –Community Garden, Container Gardening, Rain Garden, Native Plant Projects, Gateway to the Passaic River - Yes
 - xi. Neighborhood Composting – Addison – Mary to contact Amy checking already booked
 - xii. Hawthorne Birds – Holly – Yes
 - xiii. Project Medicine Box – Get literature/information for Green Team booth – Maureen Cook
 - xiv. The Learning Tree
 - xv. JNA Fitness in Wyckoff – Holly – very interested, but will get back to us regarding the dates
 - xvi. Electric Car - Park Ave BMW check with Craig no response
 - xvii. Hawthorne Shade Tree Commission – Maureen – Yes
 - xviii. Boy Scouts – Rich M – Rita will follow up
 - xix. Lincoln Landscaping “Native Plants” - Maureen
 - xx. Reimagined Design - Stephanie - No
 - xxi. A Rock Solid History of Hawthorne NJ –Veronica – Yes
 - xxii. Hawthorne Historical Society – Jackie - No

- xxiii. Yoga with Gianna – Rita – No - due to conflict
 - xxiv. Hawthorne Fire Department – Rayna – Yes
 - xxv. Hawthorne Ambulance Corp – Rita – Yes
 - xxvi. Farmer’s Market Vendors –Meg Natale - Yes
 - a. Farmers’ Market – Tony Green Thumb – will discuss hydroponic growing of plants - Yes
 - b. Farmers’ Market – Clove Acre Farms – Dustin Jurgensen, son of farmer, will discuss Sustainable Farming in Sussex County, New Jersey - Yes
 - c. Farmers’ Market - Friends of the Library – Yes
 - d. Farmers’ Market - Lemons into Lemonade – uses compostable containers, agave straws and aqua riserva water - Yes
 - e. Farmers’ Market – Werf’s Honey Werf the Wait - Team decided to ask Bee Farmer at the Farmers’ Market for participation since they are selling honey from their beehives Daughter of Bee Farmer – Girl Scout Gold Project – “Help Save the Bees” – www.pollinatorsaver.org
 - xxvii. Plug In EV Charger – Jesse Carpenter ?
 - xxviii. Passaic River Coalition –Laurie Howard ?
 - xxix. Trinity Solar. Julie Saporito-Acuna julie.saporito-acuna@trinity-solar.com; 732-685-1744 ?
 - xxx. Prestige Pest Services – Favio Ulloa ?
 - xxxi. St. Joseph’s Educational Games – Bob Bertollo – Mary will contact - Yes
 - xxxii. Passaic County Recycling – Maureen
 - xxxiii. Passaic County Park & Recreation – Maureen
 - xxxiv. Adventures with Nature – Mary - Yes for September 14, 2025 (rain date only); not available September 7, 2025
 - xxxv. Aqua Riserva – Rayna – Yes for September 14, 2025 (rain date only); not available September 7, 2025
 - e. Tables and Chairs for event – All vendors will provide their own tables and chairs; Except tables for Hawthorne Env Com, Green Team, and Shade Tree Commission (boro hall); but need to bring chairs
 - f. Publicity
 - i. Press Release, Facebook, Borough’s Website, Electronic Boards at Boro Hall and throughout town – Rayna
 - ii. Green Fair Signs – Mike and Maureen will double check on the number of lawn signs – Confirmed - Total of 12 lawn signs
 - iii. Green Fair Flyers – Discussed and updated flyer for 2025 – Completed
 - iv. Special Invitations – Mayor and Council
 - g. Giveaways – Dog Tags and Can Opener out of recycled rubber
 - h. Contact Police in advance for signs and traffic control
 - i. (2) White Board Easels – Hawthorne Boro Hall
 - j. Picnic Tables for Library grounds – Maureen
 - k. Pat and Mary to update spread sheet and send to Rayna
- V. Help the Hawthorne BEE Defeat Litter at 8 Acre Woods Meeting Place – **Re-Scheduled to Saturday October 4, 2025** (Rain Date Sunday October 5, 2025) - Sponsored by: Hawthorne Rotary, Hawthorne Environmental Commission, and Hawthorne Green Team
- VI. 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 May 16th, 2025 Pat commended Rayna on her hard work
 - 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.” - SJ Uploaded and Completed on July 8, 2025
–Submitted for Certification on Sunday July 27, 2025

- VII. Update on Issues and Commissioners Concerns:
- a. Neighborhood Preservation Program - Pat brought up Bands playing at Library September 6, 13, 20 October 4, 11, 18, 2025 from 1-4. One date is conflict with Hispanic Hertiage Event at the Bandshell
 - b. Kids to Kids Newsletter - Rita sent news letter on Nature Walks to Rayna; will review and reach out to New Superintendent of Schools

**Next Virtual Hawthorne Environmental Commission Meeting
Thursday September 11, 2025 at 7:30 pm**