



**Virtual Meeting  
Hawthorne Environmental Commission Minutes  
September 10, 2020**

Call to Order: Rayna Laiosa, Rosanne Zagatta, Pat MacDonnell, Carol Robertson, and Mary Mahon

Guests: Dawn Zagatta, Maureen Cook, Lisa DeVos, and Holly Cowen

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8454403062?pwd=Yno2T1cxRmZVK29ralF0ZjNMb0RKZz09>

**Meeting ID: 845 440 3062**

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- I. Attendance and Acceptance of Meeting –
  - a. Environmental Commission Minutes – August 13, 2020  
Motion by Rosanne Zagatta, Second by: Carol Robertson
- II. Planning Board Report – No Update
- III. Zoning Board of Adjustment
  - a. 53 Braen Avenue LLC – 10 Sotnick Street - TBD - No Update
- IV. Green Team
  - a. **Green Team Challenge - Container Gardening for Everyone** – Promote Green Team Challenge via social media. Each participant will grow a vegetable or herb in a container. Each participant will take photos of the growing progress and submit to the Hawthorne Environmental Commission email

[HawthorneEC@gmail.com](mailto:HawthorneEC@gmail.com) by September 1, 2020. Prizes will be given to the participant who grows the most unusual plant and most bountiful herbs/vegetables either by weight (lbs.) or number of quantities. Pat reached out to the local daycares/nursery schools for participation – Pre-School Learning Tree, Magic Carousel, and Boys & Girls Club – Need to Re-Post Green Challenge – Container Gardening – Lisa will repost; September 1, 2020, Two participants, entered and submitted photos for the Green Team Challenge; Two Winners - Stream Facebook Live - On September 20, 2020, the Hawthorne Green Team announced the winners of the Green Team Challenge – Container Gardening at the Hawthorne’s Farmers’ Market Dr. Alnetta Hopper and her son, Mark, won for planting green peppers. Sue and Garry Van Housen won for planting an entire garden with containers. They planted tomatoes, beans, squash, fig trees, pear trees, blackberries, strawberries, mint, oregano, lettuce. The winners received a gift certificate for a free pizza pie from Tastee’s Pizza and a gift certificate for the Hawthorne’s Farmers’ Market. All gift certificates were generously donated by Tastee’s Pizza and the Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce. Issued Press Releases to Tapinto Net and Gazette; Publicize on Facebook; Asked each of the winners to participate at our Virtual Green Fair – Container Gardening Program; Both tentatively said “yes” – need date, time, and details of their involvement.

- b. **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Green Fair Discussion** – All agreed Host the Green Fair Virtually ; Successful conducted Virtual Green Lectures – Birds (27 people); Lume (15 people); and Container (9 people); TBD dates and Times; Will discuss Further at Green Team Meeting on September 28, 2020
- c. **Virtual Green Lectures via Zoom Meetings**
  - 1. Composting – June 2020 – Mary created videos; Rayna created the presentation with Mary’s videos. Discuss Date for Lecture – Commission discussed and Agreed to include this program with the Virtual Green Fair
  - 2. Nutrition – Robin Garmise – Discuss Date for Lecture – Will move Topic to Virtual Green Fair
  - 3. Goffle Brook Park Plants by Alexandra Soterious – posting photos and a description on Facebook pages; Request to develop Goffle Brook Plant booklet and table of contents; similar to the Passaic County Native Plants Booklet that was created for our Native Plant Program. All lectures will be publicizing through Face Book, Tap Into Hawthorne, Electronic Bulletin Board, and Boro’s website. Next Step: Rayna will call Alexandra on status. – June 19, 2020 - Alexandra is working the information; plants continue to be bloomed throughout the summer into Fall; Anticipate sometime in the Fall with draft of Goffle Brook Park Plant booklet.
  - 4. Recycling – Maureen will work on program for the end of July/Beginning of August, Hawthorne’s Program is being adjusted; Maureen is working out the details; Bottle caps continue to be collected at Boro Hall; Maureen will follow up with Trex to determine if the program is continuing to collect plastic bags; Will Move Topic to Virtual Green Fair
- d. **Styrofoam Drive** – Discussion – Fall Date – Confirmed Saturday September 19, 2020; 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at Municipal Building Parking Lot; Rain Date Saturday September 26, 2020
  - 1. Volunteers Needed. Lisa, Craig, Mary, Rosanne, Rayna, Holly, and Mike
  - 2. Publicity – Press Release & Flyer - Rayna/Craig; Send jpeg flyer to Lisa to post on Facebook pages
- e. **Garbage and Litter Campaign** - Discussed Hawthorne Bee as the Mascot of the Litter Campaign; Marvel Hero! Agreed Slogan “Help the Hawthorne Bee Defeat Litter!”;

1. Mary will reach out to Marc to make the Design the Hawthorne Bee into a Super hero like; Mask on his eyes; with a cape like Zoro with Litter with an X, POKER picking up litter/trash. Received “draft of Hawthorne Bee” – All Love It! - Need to include Commission and Green Team Logo’s on flyer; Request 50 copies of Flyers – 11 x 14 size; 8 ½ x 11 flyers will be given out participants to post their “litter and garbage” bags with the Bee – Post on Facebook and/or send via email to HC gmail account; Tentatively scheduled Saturday September 26, 2020 (all day)
2. Clean Up Your Neighborhood/street block Potentially by Ward; # of bags collected
3. Publicity – flyer, social media, etc.
- f. Virtual Green Team Meeting – Monday September 28, 2020 at 7:30 pm

V. Town Wide Environmental Virtual Activity Discussion – Involve Community in Environmental Awareness

- a. Month of July - Poster Contest “Why I Love Hawthorne” – Press Release Completed and will be issued by July 6, 2020 – Nixel went out July 13, 2020
  1. Announcement of Winners Friday August 14, 2020; Presented Winners/Prizes on Tuesday August 18 2020 at Municipal Building. Facebook Live!
  2. 1st Prize - Charlotte Sher - Why I Love Hawthorne!
    - o With 75 Likes and 17 Loves; Grand Total of 92
    - o Charlotte won a \$15 Gift Certificate at Puzo’s Family Restaurant and Sprinklers\_andmore, Recycled colored pencil, as well as Hawthorne’s Chief of Police Richard McAuliffe Baseball Card
  3. 2nd Prize - Hanna Tsao - I Hawthorne Farmers Market
    - o With 33 Likes and 7 Loves; Grand Total of 40
    - o Hanna won a Cloth Reusable Bag and a \$20 Gift Certificate to Hawthorne’s Farmers’ Market
  4. 3rd Prize - Manna Tsao - We Hawthorne's Wildlife
    - o With 22 Likes and 11 Loves; Grand Total of 33
    - o Manna won two Photos, Baby Deer and a Family of Ducks, from our Green Team member, Holly Cowen, and \$20 Gift Certificate to Stewart’s Delicatessen
- b. Publicity – Press Release – Tapinto Net and Gazette, Facebook Live, Facebook and Council Meeting September 2, 2020

VI. Gateway to the Passaic River Project

- a. Sustainable Jersey and ANJEC – Final Reports - Request additional 90 day extension – September 30, 2020 - Approved by both organizations
- b. Grand Opening Saturday August 15, 2020 – Huge Success! Thank you all for Participating! – 50 – 60 participants!
- c. Publicity - Tap Into Hawthorne, North Jersey Record Newspaper, and Channel 12 News Program
- d. Discussed Tires in the Passaic River – Need waders to go into the River; will reach out to Hawthorne Bait & Tackle; Buddy System to investigate how deep the tires are in the river bed; Potentially week of September 14, 2020 to remove the tires; Council Meeting Wednesday September 2, 2020 – Passaic Sewage Commission potentially partner to assist in the removal of the tires in Passaic

River; September 6, 2020 – Green Team members, Craig Cayetano & Elisabeth Barker, removed the tires and debris/litter.

- e. Discussion of Cameras located at the Gateway Area – Rayna will follow up with Eric Maurer, Mayor Goldberg, and Walter Marston
- f. Planting Additional Milkweed in the Gateway Area – Swamp Milkweed; Mary and Carol has milkweed seeds; tentatively scheduled in November 2020 Plant

VII. Update on Issues and Commissioners Concerns, Next Steps

- a. Carol Robertson – Raised concerns about using poison to kill mice – mice will be eaten by bigger animals and pass the poison from each other; Recommend natural way to capture mice; trap them or kill them; Requested Carol to send information to Lisa to post on our Facebook page
- b. Friday September 11, 2020 – Boro Hall Municipal Building – Landscaper will be removing the weeds on the property; Mary Mahon will meet with Maureen and the landscaper to identify all of the Native Plants; not weeds; Do not Touch the native plants; Again raised the issue about swamp milkweed being removed by the Landscaper; Landscaper must replace the swamp milkweed;

**Virtual Hawthorne Environmental Commission**  
**ZOOM Meeting**  
**Thursday October 8, 2020 at 7:00 pm**