



**Virtual Meeting
Hawthorne Green Team Committee Minutes
August 25, 2025**

Call to Order: Rayna Laiosa, Mary Mahon, Holly Cowen, Rita Pinelli, Mike Mariani, Charles Stebbins, Pat MacDonnell, Michael Turco and Janet Turco

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 August 25 2025

- a. Review Hawthorne Green Team – Minutes July 28, 2025
- b. Community Garden
 1. Giving Tuesdays – Communicate to Gardeners - Thank you Note will be sent by Pat
- c. Fall 2025 Bird Walk discussion Sat Sept 20 8 Acre
Sun Sept 28 Rea House Sun Oct 12 8 Acre, Sat Oct 18 Rea House starts at 9AM Holly to send Rayna press release; Will get in Mayor’s letter and Gazette
- d. 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
3 Grand Prizes

- e. Sustainable Jersey- 1st Deadline February 23, 2025; 2nd Deadline May 16, 2025, and 3rd Deadline July 31, 2025 Done delivered July 27, 2025
1. 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

 2. 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. 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
4. 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) – **Completed & Uploaded into SJ System May 11, 2025**
 2. 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**
 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. - **Completed & Uploaded into SJ System May 11, 2025**
 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**

1. 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. **Completed & Uploaded into SJ System May 11, 2025**
 10. 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 - **3RD round Deadline is July 31st, 2025**
1. 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
- f. 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
- g. 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 Green Business Recognition Program Information – Poster/Flyer
 - b. Hawthorne Environmental Commission Green Team Brochure – Maureen - Bring copies
 - c. Music – Hawthorne local musician – Matty Z – Rayna will contact – “Old Man Winters” 10:00 am to 1:00 pm - \$350 – Confirmed/Booked; Changed Name of Band to “Brothers Mchat Duo a Matty Z Duo”
 - d. Potential Vendors – Contact Them & Request Participation – Open to New Vendors/Organizations – **Deadline for Commitment** – Monday August 4, 2025;
 1. Paws in Hands – Mary – No
 2. Amy Rowe – Rainbarrel/green infrastructure/ water conservation/native plant booth -
 3. Hawthorne Recycling – Maureen Cook - Yes
 4. PCSPCA – Stephanie Mary will send email. community@pc-spca.org confirmed
 5. BEAR Management – Doreen Yes, under the tree – shady spot - Yes
 6. Lyme and Tick Disease/World Paper USA - Alexandra - likely
 7. Goffle Brook Farm – donate vegetable seeds – Maureen will contact Donna, Owner – Yes, will donate.
 8. Passaic County 4-H Club (Bike Smoothie Demonstration – Rutgers Nutrition) – No response
 9. Green Team/Environmental Commission Booth –Community Garden, Container Gardening, Rain Garden, Native Plant Projects, Gateway to the Passaic River - Yes
 10. Neighborhood Composting – Addison – Mary – Yes
 11. Hawthorne Birds – Holly - Yes
 12. Project Medicine Box – Get literature/information for Green Team booth – Maureen Cook
 13. The Learning Tree – No response

14. JNA Fitness in Wyckoff – Holly – very interested, but will get back to us regarding the dates Maureen and Holly reached out, checking dates
15. Electric Car - Park Ave BMW check with Craig – Rayna left message
16. Hawthorne Shade Tree Commission – Maureen - Yes
17. Boy Scouts – Rich M – Rita will follow up – No
18. Lincoln Landscaping “Native Plants” - Maureen - No
19. Reimagined Design - Stephanie – No
20. A Rock Solid History of Hawthorne NJ –Veronica - Yes
21. Hawthorne Historical Society –Jackie - No
22. Yoga with Gianna – Rita - No
23. Hawthorne Fire Department – Rayna – Yes
24. Hawthorne Ambulance Corp – Rita – Yes
25. Farmer’s Market Vendors –Meg Natale - Yes
 1. Farmers’ Market – Tony Green Thumb – will discuss hydroponic growing of plants - Yes
 2. Farmers’ Market – Clove Acre Farms – Dustin Jurgensen, son of farmer, will discuss Sustainable Farming in Sussex County, New Jersey - Yes
 3. Farmers’ Market - Friends of the Library – Yes
 4. Farmers’ Market - Lemons into Lemonade – uses compostable containers, agave straws and aqua riserva water - Yes
 5. 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
 6. Farmers’ Market – RH Farms – organic and sustainable practices - farmer
26. Plug In EV Charger – Jesse Carpenter No
27. Passaic River Coalition –Laurie Howard – No
28. Trinity Solar. Julie Saporito-Acuna julie.saporito-acuna@trinity-solar.com; 732-685-1744 – No response
29. Prestige Pest Services – Favio Ulloa No
30. St. Joseph’s Educational Games – Bob Bertollo – Mary – Yes
31. Passaic County Recycling – Maureen – Yes
32. Passaic County Park & Recreation – Maureen
33. Adventures with Nature – Mary – No; but yes for the Rain Date
34. Aqua Riserva – Rayna – Yes for September 14, 2025 (rain date only); not available September
- e. Tables and Chairs for event – All vendors will provide their own tables and chairs
- f. Publicity
 1. Press Release, Facebook, Borough’s Website, Electronic Boards at Boro Hall and throughout town
 2. Green Fair Signs – Mike and Maureen will double check on the number of lawn signs – Confirmed - Total of 12 lawn signs
 3. Mary to make poster of the recognized Hawthorne Green Businesses over the years
 4. Green Fair Flyers – Discussed and updated flyer for 2025 – Completed
 5. Special Invitations – Mayor and Council - sent
- 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 – Sent to Rayna
- h. Hawthorne Day Saturday September 27, 2025 –
 - a. Volunteers Needed Time Slots: 12-2; 2-4 Pat will send out e mail for sign up

- 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
- i. Open Discussion Dates for Hawthorne High School next year: Earth Cel Bration April 18th, June Program June 8th. Prepare letter for teachers at the schools.

**Next Hawthorne Environmental Commission/Green Team Virtual ZOOM Meeting
Thursday September 18, 2025 at 7:30 pm**

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