



**Virtual Meeting
Joint Hawthorne Environmental Commission/Green Team –Minutes
December 11, 2025**

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

Guests: Judi Bosloper, John Bosloper, Rita Pinelli, Kathy Serfin, Mike Turco, and Janet Turco

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8454403062?pwd=Yno2T1cxRmZVK29ralF0ZjNMc0RkZz09>

Meeting ID: 845 440 3062

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- I. Attendance and Acceptance of Meeting Rayna opened the meeting by thanking everyone for their hard work and accomplishments over the year.
 - a. Hawthorne Environmental Commission/Green Team – Minutes November 13, 2025
Motion by: Pat MacDonnell, 2nd Motion by: Charles Stebbins

- II. Hawthorne Planning Board – Robert Meier No Meetings - This led to a discussion on Hawthorne’s Affordable Housing Round 4 obligations. Hawthorne’s Housing Element & Fair Share Plan dated May 22, 2025 web link
[https://www.hawthornenj.org/DocumentCenter/View/6880/Hawthorne -
Adopted Housing-Element 4th Round 414404 2025 06 17?bidId=](https://www.hawthornenj.org/DocumentCenter/View/6880/Hawthorne_-_Adopted_Housing-Element_4th_Round_414404_2025_06_17?bidId=)

3 Ronson, 6 acres of property located at Goffle Road and Warburton is permitted for 116 units plus a caretakers unit for a total of 117 multifamily rental units, of which, 17 units would be made affordable to families. 4th Round Housing obligations - Pan Chemical & Chevy property. Members were dismayed at the state mandates for 200 more affordable

units over the next 10 years for the Borough of Hawthorne. Hawthorne has joined other towns in lawsuits against the State of New Jersey.

III. 2026 Hawthorne Environmental Commission Meeting Dates – 2nd Thursday – Reviewed & Approved

January 8, 2026
February 12, 2026
March 12, 2026
April 9, 2026
May 14, 2026 (Joint)
June 8, 2026 – Joint & Annual Environmental Program
July 9, 2026
August 13, 2026
September 10, 2026
October 8, 2025
November 12, 2026
December 10, 2026 (Joint)

IV. 2026 Hawthorne Green Team Meeting Dates – 4th Monday – Reviewed and Approved

January 26, 2026
February 23, 2026
March 23, 2026
April 27, 2026
May 14, 2026 – (Joint)
June 8, 2026 – Joint & Annual Environmental Program
July 27, 2026
August 24, 2026
September 28, 2026
October 26, 2026+
November 23, 2026
December 10, 2026 (Joint)

V. 2026 Environmental Events/Activities – Discussed

- a. 34th Cel Earth Bration Hawthorne High School – Saturday April 18, 2026 – Hawthorne High School – 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- b. Annual June Environmental Program – Monday June 8, 2026 - HHS Auditorium at 7:30 pm
- c. Hawthorne Green Fair at the Farmers’ Market – Sunday September 13, 2026 Rain Date: Sunday September 20, 2026
- d. Hawthorne Day – Saturday September 26, 2026

VI. 2025 Accomplishments – Hawthorne Environmental Commission and Green Team

- a. On going communication – Polystyrene Collection at the Recycling Center – Holiday Season
- b. 5th Time Silver Sustainable Jersey Certification – November
- c. Kids Newsletter – Nature Walks, Jane Goodall,
- d. Spring Bird Walks
- e. Fall Bird Walks

- f. Green Lecture – Hawthorne Recycling Program at the Library
- g. Volunteer - Jacob VanderPyl assisted Rayna with the Sustainable Jersey application
- h. 32nd Cel Earth Bration – April
- i. Green Fair at the Farmers Market – September
- j. Help the Hawthorne BEE Defeat Litter; 8 Acre Woods and surrounding areas- October
- k. Shred Day – May
- l. Buy Local Campaign - Find the Hawthorne BEE! – Month of July
- m. Hawthorne Day – September
- n. Daffodil Bulbs Planting – November
- o. 8 Acre Woods and Community Garden Signs – Re-furnished
- p. 8 Acre Woods Observation Platform Repairs/ReBuild – Winter 2026
- q. Annual June Environmental Program – Recognize Students, Teachers, Citizens and Green Businesses
- r. Re Vamp Hawthorne Environmental Commission and Green Team Webpages
- s. Anti Idling Message by Hawthorne Police, Hawthorne School System and Hawthorne Environmental Commission – May
- t. Launched Hawthorne’s Plastic Film Recycling Program – May
- u. 12th Annual Community Garden Season
- v. 40 lbs. of food produce from Hawthorne’s Community Garden donated to Hawthorne Food Pantry
- w. One pager Flyer with photos – How to Dispose at Hawthorne Recycling Center; photos was utilized in the 2026 Boro Calendar
- x. Stormwater Management Program – Poster and Flyers – Educational Outreach Programs; Poster information was utilized in the 2026 Boro Calendar – information is on (1) page instead of several pages.

VII. Green Team Meeting

- a. Community Garden – 2026 Growing Season - Announced three (3) garden beds will be made available in January 2026; 40 pounds of produce was donated to Hawthorne’s food pantry. Mike will go by tomorrow and check community garden beds. New Gardners were notified
- b. Next Green Team Meeting: Monday January 26, 2026 at 7:30 pm

VIII. Kids to Kids Newsletter - Winter’s Kids Newsletter on Jane Goodall. Everyone congratulated Rita on job well done

IX. Native Plant – Sidewalk and Curb Area Discussion - November 2025 Minutes - A Hawthorne resident requested clarification on planting Native Plants between the sidewalk and the curb - grassy area. She received a warning for the plantings. Rita will take a photos and send them to Rayna for review. Rita will research for the appropriate native plants to be planted between the sidewalk and the curb.

December 2025 Discussion - It appears 3 neighbors are planting native plants on 2nd Avenue. On November 14, 2025, Rita sent photos to Rayna – it appears that some of the native plants have been pruned while others just withered. Discussion -types of native plants and the appropriate height. Rita provided a list of native plants – ground cover, carexes, and grasses. Source: https://npsnj.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/BBP_Going_Native_Northern_NJ_Edition_2022.pdf

Discussed a 12 inch growth height seemed to be acceptable but it appears some of the plants may grow several feet higher. Maureen was asked to check with Nick, Lincoln Landscape, and verify actual native plants that could be suitable in this area.

- X. 8 Acre Woods.. Platform destroyed will be rebuilt by DPW. Funding will be provided to DPW by the Environmental Commission.
- XI. Terra Cycle - Kathy came to Rayna about cigarette butt pollution on Diamond Bridge Avenue at the recent Help the Hawthorne BEE Defeat Litter event. At the Sustainable Jersey award ceremony in November 2025, Rayna met Paula, Environmental Chair in Medford NJ. The Medford Environmental Commission worked with Terra Cycle and collected and sent cigarette materials free of charge to be recycled. Kathy will call Paula and gather information on the box size container for the cigarette materials and how Medford runs their recycling operation. Maureen suggested one box at the municipal building. Liquor stores and restaurants are being considered for next phase. Let's do an initial phase at the municipal building. Based on the Terra Cycle's website, it states that one (1) box is \$133.
- XII. Update on Issues and Commissioners Concerns:
 - a. Learned that Christmas tree light cords can be recycled. All electronics that have a plug or corded products can be recycled at Hawthorne's Recycling Center.

**Next Virtual Hawthorne Environmental Commission Meeting
Thursday January 8, 2026 at 7:30 pm**