**Washington Township Green Team**

**Ad Hoc Committee Meeting**

**Monday May 7th, 2018 6:30pm Minutes**

**Washington Township Municipal Building**

Members Present: Dan Ross, Paula Ross, Township Committeeman Greg Forsbrey, Green Team Liaison Ken Short

Members Absent: Bill Leavens, Patty Homer. Others Present: Township Clerk Andrew Coppola

Called to Order at: 6:38pm Approval of March’s Minutes: Approved by those in attendance.

1. **Old Business**: Dan opened the meeting by informing everyone that the last few deliverables for the Harrington Fields pollinator meadow project are coming together slowly, but there are still a few remaining. Notably the fencing has been installed by the DPW, the spring seeding is done, and the signs have all been ordered. He also mentioned that the site has been cleared of debris and that the group is now simply awaiting the seedlings to sprout. Paula mentioned that Hoffman’s Supply has generously agreed to donate a mailbox to the project which will serve as a rustic brochure holder for the meadow trifolds. She also said that her artist friend and fellow LVGC member will be painting wildflowers on the mailbox for us. Dan said that the signage will still need to be installed and that there might be a need to ask the township to assist with cementing the mailbox into the ground and securing the benches. Once the meadow has grown throughout the year, the green team plans on having an official opening/ butterfly release this late summer early fall. Dan mentioned to the group that he and Paula had met with the ad hoc trails committee to discuss implementing the interpretative trail some time over the course of the next year and will be helping with producing signage as well. Ken offered to reach out to DPW on the behalf of the Green Team, to have them mow the new grass trail, and to provide meadow maintenance as well.
2. **Future Business or Activities**:

**TREX Challenge-** Paula informed the group that the initial challenge had been completed and that so far, the group has amassed 527.5 lbs of plastic film and had qualified for our first bench. Paula also pointed out that we had reached out to TREX to inquire about the possibility of being awarded a second bench, should we be able to collect another 500 lbs before six months’ time. They graciously offered to honor that challenge as well, so the TREX challenge will continue through the summer. The group has decided that they would be placing both of their benches at Harrington Fields, along the eventual route of the interpretive trail that is forthcoming.

**Sustainable Jersey:** Regarding the green cleaning products initiative;Paula told the group that she heard back from the library and they have already been using green cleaning products for years, but she will work on reaching out to the senior center next. Dan mentioned about the two flyers he would like to put together and send out to the township residents. One would be instructing residents to please consider mulching their grass clippings into their lawns, rather than bagging them and disposing of the clippings. Ken suggested that he thought the township may have already promoted such practices in the past. The second flyer would inform residents about the benefits of home composting. Both initiatives can help the township to gain SJ points. Paula informed the group about the paper shredding numbers, turnout and supporting pictures.

**Green Market:** Ken mentioned that the letter of support to the LVFAS, which would lay out dates, timeframe and other specifics, went out and that the event will be run as a conjunction of the green team and the economic development committee for the trial run in the first year. Ken mentioned that he has stopped into Pezzo Pizza to discuss the parking situation with the owner, but he wasn’t available. Ken also informed the group that there were 54 parking spots that weren’t being used at the time he was visiting the property. Ken said that he will still need to talk to Silbert, and the property owners in order to get the necessary approvals. We will also need to coordinate with the DPW to have them mow the grass field prior to the event as well. At the moment the group is considering a late June date for a soft open, with an abbreviated first season.

**Partnering with Schools**: Greg mentioned that the Facilities Manager for the K-12 district, A.J. Whitmore has been overwhelmed recently as they are dealing with internal issues, so we may need to hold off on partnering with the schools for a few months. Dan reaffirmed that the group still intends to work with the schools in the upcoming school year on Sustainable Jersey for Schools initiatives, and to push the idea of potentially installing a rain garden along the highly visible area along West Mill Road as well.

**Green Festival Meeting Updates:** Patty apologized for being unable to attend the meeting, but she sent the group a mockup of the green festival passport game which the group reviewed and thought it was a great idea. Andrew told the group that they had 8 vendors signed up so far with mostly non-profits but there are a few for profit vendors. Paula mentioned reaching out to a few more vendors and group discussed a few more ways in which outreach for the event can continue.

**Fundraising/ New Grants:** Dan told the group about the possibility of applying for the Franklin Parker Land Stewardship grant for next year’s grant cycle, but that we would need to partner with a local non-profit, perhaps the Land Trust on a joint project.Greg mentioned that a lot of the WTLT properties could likely benefit from stewardship projects, and that it should certainly be looked into further. The group will continue to search for any grants or funding opportunities that seem to be a good fit and align with our mission.

**Outreach:** Dan mentioned the video shorts that Patty had suggested about green team members doing sustainable actions in town. She thought that we could promote sustainable practices while promoting things that the green team does, and it would be an added interactive layer to our social media page.

1. **Call to adjourn:** 8:10pm