

## Hammonton Green Committee

January 6, 2014

### MINUTES

**Attendees:** Dan Bachalis, Sara Rooney Verrillo, Amy Menzel, Nancy Fonte, Susan Coan

**Guest:** Sandy Templeton

**Quorum:** since we didn't make quorum we did not consider a new Chair and other leads - will need to address this ASAP. If anyone is interested in taking on leadership role especially Chair, please advise Dan!

**Guest: Atlantic County Master Gardeners – Sandy Templeton (sandyt85@yahoo.com)**

- Eagle Theater Project – collaboration with the Master Gardeners
- Native Plant Demonstration at the Eagle Theater
- Working on design and fundraising (money and in-kind such as hardscape materials)
- Planting scheduled for *end of May, 2014*; will include interpretive/educational signage
- Ideally in same day of planting invite public – MG's would be avail to answer questions
- Also screen a documentary on benefits of native plants
- **What can GC do to help?** GC agreed to take on the responsibility of identifying and running the Documentary portion of the event.
- Will need volunteers - looking at the Hammonton High Garden Club
- After the MG's finish the Eagle Theater, will work with Stockton on a garden at the Pavilion across from Kramer Hall

**Financial Update:** Dan reported that Frank Zuber shared January starting budget for the Green Committee of : \$6,166.68. There are a few more bills that need to get paid from Green Day.

**Sustainable Jersey** – We earned Silver Certification! Dan handed out our official “Certified” lapel pins

During 2014, need to identify the items that are expiring next year, so we can work on renewing, and maintain our level of points for the duration - this way we won't have to scramble at the end

**Meeting date: January 16<sup>th</sup>** Amy's House at 7pm (408 12<sup>th</sup> Street) Dan proposes that we hold a Sustainable Jersey planning meeting with a GC Subcommittee.

**Community Garden Application with Fiskars** - Dan submitted an application to Fiskars for a grant (\$3,500 in cash and \$1,500 in equipment) to support a Community Garden. Site proposed is Hammonton-owned land on 11<sup>th</sup> Street adjacent to the Train Station Parking lot. Dan will look into the suitability of the site from an environmental perspective.

Amy advised the committee that AtlantiCare offers a \$500 grant for Community Garden that we should apply for. There is no deadline for this grant.

**Green Drinks January 30<sup>th</sup>** - Committee agreed to host a Green Drinks at Café San Rocco on Thursday Jan 30<sup>th</sup> – start at 6pm – 8pm. Dan will try and get a deal on a couple of beer selections.

Committee also suggested a multi-Green Team outing to The Avenue in Egg Harbor City - a Thursday when the weather is a little nicer. We can take the train to EHC

### **2014 Plan of Action**

- Lake Clean Up - Date tbd – Likely a Saturday in early March.
- Collaboration with St. Joe - there is an Environmental Club there – will need to reach out
- Eye Opening Film and Lecture Series - Nancy and Dan will meet with the Eagle Theater on Saturday to set a schedule for 2014. Next event will likely be in February.
  - o Ideas: “Chasing Ice”, TED Talk on sustainable food, “Renewal” – about grassroots religious environmental movement; “Cinemability” - a film about disabilities, plus a Gardening themed film for end of May.
- Wildlife Habitats - would like to reinvigorate this effort; especially with the eco-tourism aspect of Hammonton’s new Tourism & Economic Development committee.
- Water Conservation – Dan passed around statistics for Hammonton’s water use. Ten of the lowest water use months since 2008 occurred in 2013. 22% lower than 2012!
- Plastic Bag Use - need to develop a plan
- Recycling Report - need to reverse trend in Hammonton! Hammonton’s trash vs. recyclables delivered to ACUA was 23% to 77% during 2013.
- Town Sesquicentennial Celebration - planning meeting on Jan 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm
- Community Food Co-Op -
- Egg Harbor Rd. Clean Up - tbd

Next Meeting: February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm at Town Hall