

Green Team Minutes

January 29, 2019

Members Present: Jerry Barron, Theresa Berger, Mayor, Mary Ann Cernak, Freddy Dare, Nick Huszar, Lauren Lastimoso, Rich Mertens, Kathi Novak, Paul Novello, Evelyn O'Donnell, Deputy Mayor, Jennifer Policastro, Michael Rizzo, Elaine Taylor, Brian Tannenhaus

Guests: Rosemarie Bird, Kristal Dias, Valerie Leone, Tommy Russo*, Councilman, Sandra Sully

*(Councilman Russo excused himself when Councilwoman O'Donnell arrived)

Meeting called to order at 7:15pm and December 18, 2018 minutes approved by members

Attendance Policy: Jerry announced notification when missing a meeting is an excused absence. If 3 consecutive meetings are missed without notification (unexcused) action will be taken.

Confidentiality: Jerry explained confidentiality as pertains to the code of conduct required to be signed by all those who were appointed to the Green Team.

Positions: Nominations and 2nds were made and all were in favor for the following positions:

- Jerry Barron, Chair
- Brian Tannenhaus, Vice Chair
- Kathi Novak, Secretary
- Nick Huszar, Secretary (Alternate)

Discussion:

Sustainable Jersey Certification:

Mayor Berger asked what are the 2019 Green Team goals? Nick gave a brief history and overview of the Sustainable Jersey certification process the current Bronze status for Howell. Howell was first certified in 2015 with 185 points (Bronze) and recertified in 2018 with 220 points (Bronze). Mayor Berger said she would like to see the goal for the next recertification in 3 years (2021) to be Gold. Nick will provide Mayor Berger with a visual of the differences between Bronze, Silver & Gold status.

E.R.I./N.R.I. (Environmental Resource Inventory also known as Natural Resource Inventory) was last completed in 2008 and submitted in January 16, 2009 by Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission for Howell Township. Nick reported on the process and status of applying for a \$10,000. Sustainable Jersey PSEG Foundation grant. If awarded Howell's Shade Tree Commission would match it to cover the \$20,000 cost. The resolution authorizing the Environmental Commission to prepare and submit a Sustainable Jersey grant application was approved by Town Council 1-22-2019. Deadline for filing is February 15, 2019.

Introductions: Welcoming new members and guests, introductions were made going around the table. Several 2019 go to projects were opened up to everyone and all were encouraged to volunteer in areas of interest.

Green Projects

- **Community Outreach & Farmers Market Planning** – placing “green” informational articles in local papers (Howell Times/Tri Town News) and utilizing Howell’s channel 77 to promote education and awareness. Elaine Taylor
- **Facebook** – Update and maintain the Municipal Green Team’s facebook site. Rosemarie Bird
- **Tower Gardens for Schools** – Mary Ann Cernak, Rosemarie Bird
- **Woodbridge Township (Greenable Woodbridge)**
<https://www.twp.woodbridge.nj.us/595/Greenable-Woodbridge> - Named the 2018 Sustainable Jersey™ Silver-Level Champion by the New Jersey League of Municipalities for the Eighth Year. Reach out to Woodbridge on tips for success – Kathi Novak
- **Composting/Organic waste/Gardening/Recycling** – Valerie Leone, Freddy Dare, Lauren Lastimoso, Rich Mertens
- **Howell Day/Green Fair (9-21-2019)** – Hype it up, new vendors, send cover letters to Tesla, JCP&L and other green vendors with info about the Green Fair. Rich Mertens (Shade Tree Commission) will provide seedlings for Green Fair.
- **Electric Charging Stations** – Site selection of 2 charging stations in Howell - Paul Novello
- **JCPL Street Lamps** – Work with DPW to locate lights that need replacing throughout town & notify JCP&L
- **ESIP (Energy Savings Improvement Program)** Brian Tannenhaus, Deputy Mayor O’Donnell, Paul Novello - Deputy Mayor O’Donnell reported there may be a possibility of partnering with the Howell Schools who have successfully utilized the ESIP program. Brian reported the possibility of connecting with a Montclair State Univ. graduate student through an application on line to assist Howell in implementing the program and Paul said he would send the information. For more Information regarding the ESIP program: <http://www.njcleanenergy.com/commercial-industrial/programs/energy-savings-improvement-program>
- **Recycling Coordinator** – Paul reported that 2 DPW employees are currently taking the Rutgers certification class.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm

Next Meeting February 26, 2018 at 7:00pm

Minutes submitted by:

Kathi Novak

Member