

**MEETING NOTES**  
**SUSTAINABLE JERSEY GREEN TEAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SJ GTAC)**  
**JULY 11, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Members Present: Vicky Binetti (Environmental Commission); John Boyer (Planning Board); Karen Garrison (Board of Education); Sean Longfellow (Council President); Matt Mallon (MUA); Bob Timmons (Chamber of Commerce); and Mayor Barbara Wallace. Members Absent: Frank Altamuro (Public Works); and Susan Hallowell (Community). Additionally, Brooke Evanko (Green Team Assistant) was in attendance.

Members reviewed meeting notes from the June 6, 2016 meeting and the proposed agenda for the current meeting.

Vicky Binetti and Brooke Evanko reported noteworthy news and ideas learned through their attendance at the Sustainability Summit (6/15/16) at the College of New Jersey. Highlights include presentations on: sea level rise impacts associated with climate change; statewide assessment of sustainability efforts; standards for new gold-level Sustainable Jersey certification for energy and waste management; and new electric vehicle charging grant program. Vicky and Brooke separately attended six breakout sessions covering issues ranging from engaging the business community to sustainability education.

Bob Timmons reported that the Tiny Lab tour seminars (6/12–6/18) in Washington Township were not as well attended as hoped, perhaps because of visibility. However, the organizers (“Proof Is Possible Tour” Building Performance Workshop) indicated that attendance here was typical or slightly higher than in most other communities on the tour.

An updated Action Inventory was distributed for members’ review. As of the meeting date, fifteen actions noted as “Completed” or “In Progress,” including two priority actions, totaled 135 points. These are potential actions for inclusion in the Township’s certification application.

Discussion items:

*Community Garden* – The Community Garden is operating successfully, but not all garden plots have been reserved. Suggestions for outreach for 2017 were offered (e.g., direct email to target populations, short videos for community cable station<sup>1</sup>).

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<sup>1</sup> The prospect of producing short/60-second videos as a communications tool for sustainability-related items, preferably in partnership with the Township School District, was repeatedly discussed. Sean Longfellow and Mayor Wallace will discuss this partnership opportunity at an upcoming meeting of Township and School District officials.

*Buy Local Campaign* – Bob Timmons reported on tentative plans for the campaign. The Greater Washington Township Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a “Month of Dining in Washington Township” in the fall (possibly October), and a wine tasting (with local vendors and restaurants) at the Washington Banquet Hall. Activities may also include a Buy Local Day on the Saturday following Thanksgiving.

*Community Paper Shredding Day* – Brooke Evanko summarized information on the Township’s most recent annual Paper Shredding Day, including date (and additional scheduled off-site dates), tonnage collected, promotional information, etc. Documentation will be updated for the 2017 certification application. Short videos<sup>1</sup> could be used for additional promotion.

*Prescription Drug Safety and Disposal* – Brooke reviewed information related to the prescription drug drop-off program operated by Township Police Department, including location, statistics on collections since the program’s inception in April, and educational and informational materials; such documentation will be submitted with our certification application. Additional outreach on the program (e.g., short videos<sup>1</sup> for the community cable station or website posting, information/flyers at local pharmacies, or made available through physicians, hospice providers and funeral homes) may further enhance its success.

*Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Public Places* – Brooke reviewed key implementation aspects of our 2002 ordinance that prohibits smoking in public buildings and grounds, communication to employees, signage, etc. It may be useful to conduct periodic reviews of signage, and assure posting of information regarding the Township’s non-smoking policy on the Township’s webpage.

*Drinking Water Protection – Innovative Project* – Vicky Binetti reviewed the Township’s Wellhead Protection Ordinance, adopted in 2002, which serves to protect the Township’s drinking water by regulating the kinds of land uses that can occur in the vicinity of shallow community water supply wells. The GTAC agreed that this action should be included as part of the Township’s certification application, as an “Innovative Project” that is not included in the menu of actions, but contributes to the sustainability of our resources. Additional educational material regarding ground water protection (e.g., through the Township’s and MUA’s websites, the MUA’s Annual Water Quality Report, or short videos<sup>1</sup>) would enhance the project further.

*Waste Management* – Bob noted that some residents have suggested it would be helpful to have additional hours of operation at the Township’s collection site for white goods, metals, and electronics (Public Works facility on McClure Drive). The section “For New Residents” on the Township’s website, which includes information on trash collection and recycling, should be reviewed to determine whether additional information would be beneficial. Bob also questioned whether a program could be developed with local merchants to facilitate disposal of paint cans.

Communications:

- The SJGTAC currently has a web page on the Township’s website, accessible via the Environmental Commission; all agreed that SJGTAC should be listed independently, to reinforce the notion that our community sustainability efforts include, but are broader than, traditional environmental concepts. The web page needs development, to include meeting agendas and minutes, general information on sustainability principles, highlights of our Sustainable Jersey application, features on specific actions or key activities for residents, community benefits, etc.
- The SJGTAC tentatively agreed that the title “Sustainable Township” might be used to denote our sustainability efforts. Brooke shared several examples of logos using this brand; the group favored the following design:



- Vicky distributed a draft press release for the SJGTAC’s review, and requested that any comments be emailed. The purpose of the press release is to introduce our sustainability efforts to the community, as well as the Township’s intention to apply for certification.

*Bicycle or Pedestrian Audit, and Bicycle or Pedestrian Plan* - Discussion (to be led by John Boyer) was deferred to the August meeting because of insufficient discussion time.

Some upcoming events to note:

- Webinar: Pathways & Incentives to Financing Clean Energy – 7/13/16, 1 – 2 pm  
<http://www.sustainablejersey.com/nc/events-trainings/>
- Webinar: Get Plugged In -- Actions & Incentives to Encourage Electric Vehicles (program information & small grant opportunity) – 7/19/16, 1 – 2 pm  
<http://www.sustainablejersey.com/nc/events-trainings/>  
See <http://www.drivegreen.nj.gov/programs.html> for information on grant program

The meeting concluded at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vicky Binetti