

MEETING NOTES
SUSTAINABLE JERSEY GREEN TEAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SJ GTAC)
FEBRUARY 6, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m.

Members Present: Frank Altamuro (Public Works); Vicky Binetti (Environmental Commission); Karen Garrison (Board of Education); Matt Mallon (WTMUA); Maureen Pasternak (Chamber of Commerce) and Bonnie Vance (Public). Members Absent: John Boyer (Planning Board); Brooke Evanko (Public); Mayor Joann Gattinelli (Administration); and Sean Longfellow (Council).

Members reviewed meeting notes from the January 9, 2017 meeting and the proposed agenda for the current meeting.

Updates:

Vicky Binetti provided several updates on activities since the January meeting. Resolution xx-2017 was approved by the Township Council on January 25, 2017, to authorize the continuing operation of the GTAC. On February 2, Vicky met with Marty Bouchard, the faculty member who manages the TV Production program at Washington Township High School, and with students in the advanced class. Vicky explained the partnership the WTEC hopes to establish, and provided a list of examples of potential subjects for public service announcements, short video spots, and longer pieces or skits. Students are quite interested, and the next step is for GTAC to provide scripts. Vicky suggested a few ideas to initiate the effort, including safe drug disposal (with the WT Police Department's drop-off box), Water Conservation, and the Community Garden. Others suggested the "Grass—Cut It and Leave It" action would be timely.

Vicky also reported that the Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) update is underway, and the first set of maps is expected from The Nature Conservancy of New Jersey on February 23. The Planning Board and Historical Commission have both agreed to participate in the ERI update process, assisting the Environmental Commission and Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC). A Request for Quotes for the update to the Township's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) was issued on January 20, 2017 and proposals were requested by February 10. The Planning Board, Historical Commission and the Sports Advisory Board have agreed to participate with the OSAC in the update of the OSRP.

Action Inventory and Assignments

Members present reviewed the Acton Plan status list dated 1/9/17. The Actions needing close monitoring in order to be included in our June certification submittal continue to be the following:

- *Buy Local Campaign*
- *Natural Resources Inventory*
- *Open Space Plans*
- *Water Conservation Education*

- *Grass—Cut It and Leave It*

Discussion regarding these and other actions included:

- Frank Altamuro was asked to follow up to assure that “green” policies are highlighted in communication to employees (*Adopt Behavioral Policies*).
- Members recommended merging *Buy Local* and *Eat Fresh/Eat Local* actions; first actions would be to build lists of Township businesses, organized by category (e.g., restaurants, hardware, beauty salons, etc.). Bonnie Vance and Maureen Pasternak are interest in working on this project.

Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program for Municipalities

Members discussed the best strategies for application for funding from the Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program. Municipalities may apply for assistance in implementing projects that will help them gain points toward certification (\$20,000 or \$10,000 grants), as well as for “capacity building” grants for green teams (\$2,000). Applications are due February 28, 2017.

Members concurred that an application for a capacity-building grant should focus on items that will aid Sustainable Washington Township outreach and program recognition, such as a table cover, display board, banner, and/or tent, all with the Sustainable Washington Township logo; the application should also include promotional items that are consistent with a sustainability message. Maureen Pasternak presented several examples of reusable tote bags. (Note that promotional items are limited to 25% of the grant amount for capacity-building grants.)

Several potential focus areas were discussed for a larger grant, in the way of assistance to implement actions that would gain points toward certification. These included exploring purchase/discount programs (*Buy Local Campaign*); activities to promote a *Buy Fresh/Buy Local* action (e.g., lists of sources for growing, selling and serving fresh foods; cooking demonstrations; videos with local chefs); assistance for printing an updated Water Conservation Guide in preparation by the MUA (*Water Conservation Education*); and activities to initiate an *Arts & Creative Culture* suite. Bonnie Vance proposed that we seek funding for water bottle filling stations (automatic water dispensers, mounted in walls or atop existing fountains) that use the public water system, encourage use of refillable bottles, and reduce waste from purchased plastic water bottles. This could be submitted as an *Innovative Community Project* for reduction of plastic waste. Members present agreed that this would be an excellent action for our sustainability efforts and make a very public statement in our public buildings, and with municipal employees. This could be a central grant component, with some of the other notions discussed as supplements to complete a \$10,000 application.

Vicky will work on grant preparation, with assistance from Bonnie, Frank, Maureen and Matt Mallon. We will also seek a required resolution supporting our grant application at Council’s February 22nd meeting.

Members were reminded that Super Saturday (May 13) will be an excellent opportunity for outreach.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Some upcoming events/deadlines to note:

- PSEG Small Grants Program for Municipalities – application deadline 2/28/17
<http://www.sustainablejersey.com/grants-resources/sustainable-jerseysmall-grants-program/pseg-cycle/>
- Sustainable Jersey webinar, “Making a Game Plan for Getting Certified,” 2/22/17, 1:00-2:00 pm <http://www.sustainablejersey.com/nc/events-trainings/>
- ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grants; applications due 4/7/17
<http://www.anjec.org/EnvCommissionGrantPrograms.htm>

Respectfully submitted,
Vicky Binetti