

NEXT MEETING: GREEN TEAM MEETING: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016* AT 7:00 P.M.
***ONE WEEK EARLY DUE TO THANKSGIVING**

MINUTES OF THE GREEN TEAM
OCTOBER 27, 2016

Acting-Chairman Mark Olson called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m., it having been duly noted that this meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., notice of which was sent to The Record and posted on the Village bulletin board. Members present were: Peggy Conversano, James Donohue, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Mark Olson, Linda Quinn, Kimberley Calabrese and John Anlian. Steve Quinn was also present for the meeting as was Janet Malool, who was invited to discuss her interest in a community garden.

This was the first official meeting of the Green Team. Oaths of Office were distributed to the members present to be signed, notarized and returned to the Clerk's Office. Mark Olson was the Acting-Chairman to begin the meeting and hold the election for Chairman and Vice-Chairman and appointment of a Secretary.

Peggy Conversano nominated Mark Olson for Chairman. The nomination was seconded by Linda Quinn. All voted in favor of Mark Olson for Chairman.

Mark Olson nominated Peggy Conversano for Vice-Chairperson. The nomination was seconded by James Donohue. All voted in favor of Peggy Conversano for Vice-Chairperson.

At this point, the new Chairman Mark Olson took over the meeting.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by James Donohue to appoint Barbara DeLuca as Secretary for the Green Team. All were in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Peggy Conversano and seconded by Mark Olson adopting Roberts Rules Revised as the guidelines for the Green Team to follow. All were in favor of this motion.

Approval of bills: The proposed budget for 2017 must be given to Commissioner Anlian by December 1. Mark Olson will put something together and send it around for comments.

Hearing of Citizens: Janet Malool was present to discuss the formation of a community garden. She was given the link for Sustainable Jersey as well as the information concerning community gardens. Janet explained she is interested in alternate forms of academic work. Carol Coram, the former Principal of Roosevelt School, had a garden that grew as part of the curriculum, which was integrated in their learning at her school in Washington. Janet said she would like to see this be part of the school and then maybe become part of summer school. If there is a crop, maybe there could be a cooking class.

Janet said she would like to try to have community gardens in RP and try to involve the general population. This would be a great way to get more residents involved. Maybe the Village Gardeners could get involved and make them feel a part of it.

Janet started to do research on this. There are several ways this could be done. One way is to have individual plots people could rent for a season. There could be community gardens using kids that need service hours.

Mark Olson said his brother has community gardens where he lives in Indiana but now nothing grows there but peppers so someone has to monitor what is being done with the gardens. The reason the community garden has problems is poor weeding/maintenance and bad crop rotation have led to disease and pest infestations.

Mark said that St. Francis has a garden that partially supports St. Francis' pantry. Maybe the GT could approach them and ask if we could use some of this land and will then give some of the food to the pantry.

Janet Malool said the GT could ask property owners if the GT can use some of the land and then give some of the crops to the landowner. Mark Olson said the GT should start small. Janet said maybe the GT should start in one location and then maybe enlist members of the public. It would be great if there were enough to serve the good pantry or sell some of the goods.

John Anlian said the GT has to find a good idea and then run with it. Raised beds are a good idea. John Anlian showed pictures from Secaucus of their community garden.

John said the bottom of Brinkerhoff Street might be a good spot. It needs to be fenced, must have a water supply, and they also recommend soil sampling. You also need to know how many hours of sun the land gets. The bottom of Brinkerhoff Street is sunny all day but will need a lot of water all day. The GT would need to buy a container and the DPW would fill it up and people could get their containers to water the garden.

Janet Malool should decide on what she wants to do and where she wants to do it. John Anlian said something should be put in the newsletter. Give a quick summary and see who is interested in helping. Mark Olson thinks that St. Francis would be a good place to start. It is already fenced in. There is a garden there but it was not tended to this year. St. Francis probably would be a good place to start. Mark doesn't think there needs to be raised beds if they are weeded regularly.

Mark thinks that maybe the GT needs to set up working committees on projects such as this. Mark Olson, Peggy Conversano and Jim Donohue are interested in being on this committee.

Jim Donohue said the high school has a Garden Club but it is mainly flowers. It is located in the courtyard in the center of the school. There is the autism garden that did grow some vegetables. Jim Donohue said there is a lot of it that is available.

Steve Quinn said he was assigned the Environmental Commission for the Sustainable Jersey actions. One requirement was he needed to get an electronic copy of the ordinance when the EC came into being. He also has to provide the annual report done by the EC. He was informed that EC has never done an annual report. John Anlian said that is something the EC should be providing to the Board of Commissioners. The EC needs to provide an annual report of roughly 300 words for this requirement.

Correspondence: email from Janet Malool dated September 25, 2016, regarding community/school gardens.

New Business: Bogota wants to partner with RP on a Green Fair. RP was thinking of incorporating a Green Fair into Earth Day. John Anlian said that if it is done on the same day that maybe it should be in more than one location; maybe have some activities on Main Street and some in Bogota. John said even if there were some kids just holding signs on Main Street that it would attract more people. This will be discussed more at the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2016, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The meeting is one week early due to Thanksgiving.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca