

**NEXT MEETING: GREEN TEAM MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2017, AT 7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES OF THE GREEN TEAM  
JANUARY 26, 2017**

Chairman Mark Olson called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 published in The Record and sent to the Star Ledger as well as posted on the Village bulletin board. Members present were: Peggy Conversano, Joseph D'Angeli, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Harry Menta, Florence Muller and Joe Rella. Not Present: James Donohue, Gloria Rivera, Linda Quinn, and Kimberley Calabrese. Janet Malool and Hernan Osorio were also present for the meeting.

A motion was made by Peggy Conversano and seconded by Leslie Olson to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2016, meeting. All were in favor of the motion. A motion was made by Mark Olson and Peggy Conversano to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2016, meeting. All were in favor of the motion.

**Approval of bills:** Funds will be encumbered for the Green Fair for 2017. Mark Olson will work off the funds encumbered in 2016, which must be submitted by March 31, 2017, in order to be paid.

**Hearing of Citizens:** None present.

**Correspondence:** 1) oaths of office for Peggy Conversano and Joseph D'Angeli  
2) Bergen County Parks online survey – <http://cues.rutgers.edu/bergen-park-system/>  
Leslie and Mark Olson said they recently attended a meeting regarding the future of Bergen County's Parks. In the future, the Bergen County Dept. of Parks will be stopping people in the park to get their opinions as well as studying the results of the online survey. They want to hear the public's opinion on the future of the parks. They want to get as many opinions as they can.

**Old Business:**

**Sustainable Jersey** – Leslie Olson said she will submit some of the information already gathered to someone at Sustainable Jersey to get pointers. Right now the GT would have 65 points toward certification if everything was accepted. For Emergency Communications Planning, Leslie submitted something generic to see if it would be accepted. Leslie and Mark will take another look at the list to see if there is anything else that might be good for the Commission to do.

The Community Garden is the biggest thing being worked on at this time. This task must be documented every year. Mark Olson met with Alan O'Grady. McGowan Park seems to be the site that Alan O'Grady, John Anlian and Adam MacNeill want to use. Janet Malool does not think this is a good site. She said she has not heard back from John Anlian or Adam MacNeill. Mark said one of the reasons he is excited about McGowan Park is that no one seems to want this space so it would give a lot of freedom to the GT. Peggy Conversano said that since it is across from the new condos, it would give people without a backyard a place where they could garden.

Janet feels the problem with Bergen Turnpike is it is flooded right now. The geese droppings are all over the place. Jim Donohue and Janet Malool feel that the problems with that location need to be addressed first. Where is the water coming from? Mark Olson said Alan O'Grady said it is from McGowan Park. Janet Malool said the area is low. To counteract that, the gardens would need to be raised. Is the soil contaminated from geese? Bugs need to be dealt with naturally. It was pointed out there are natural plants that could be planted around the garden.

Joe D'Angeli said that bat houses should be added to the Community Garden to naturally remove the bugs. It would also help to promote bat houses as well. They would help to control thousands of mosquitos. Bat droppings, which can be provided by Wild Life, would also help control the mosquitos.

Janet distributed a location analysis for the Community Garden that she prepared with input from Jim Donahue. She listed what she felt were the pros and cons of Fellowship Park and Bergen Turnpike Property. She also distributed pictures she took on Wednesday, January 25 at approximately 2:15 p.m. of Bergen Turnpike. Mark Olson pointed out that he was down that location earlier in the day and it did not appear flooded to him.

Janet and Jim still feel that the location at Fellowship Park is better to start with. They feel McGowan is unappealing the way it is now. It is more accessible to seniors or high school students looking for service hours. They both feel it would be better to start small with this first Community Garden in the middle of town and wait until April of 2018 to start the other location. Janet's opinion is if this were to get going in two or three months, it will not happen at McGowan Park. It should be Fellowship Park. McGowan Park would cost a lot more since the beds must be raised. She doesn't think it advisable to use a huge piece of property.

Mark Olson thinks they should put together a five year plan and just list bullet points. Janet thinks there could be an educational piece if the garden was in McGowan Park. She does not understand the opposition to Fellowship Park. Mark Olson said Janet will need to think if she wants to do it as part of the Green Team or does she want to do it as a separate entity. Janet says that the gardeners might work for two weeks and then decide they don't want to work around goose poop and mosquitos. Janet said everyone must agree upon a site. Mark feels the Commissioners will offer a site and the GT must decide if they will use it or not. Mark said he really, really hopes she chooses to do the garden through the GT but it is her discretion. Janet said she will make an appointment to speak with Commissioner MacNeill. Mark said he'll need the answer by February 10 so it can get into the next newsletter.

Mark said a sub-committee should be set up and works out the details and then report back to the GT. The Sub-Committee will consist of Jim Donohue, Janet Malool and Mark Olson. Janet was given Adam MacNeill's email address.

Leslie and Mark Olson met with Bogota to discuss a joint Green Fair. Bogota has already held a Green Fair, which they qualified with already. They will bring everything they had already. They will bring a beekeeper.

Mark would like to give everyone who participates in the Community Garden a sickle hoe. He brought one to show the members. The hoe works really well at several tasks.

Mark said the girl scouts from Bogota wants to come and sell things. Organic coffee will be available through Hernan. Mark said he plans on purchasing Vegware biodegradable containers for the scouts to use when serving the food at Earth Day. He will contact Lisa Infantino from the scouts to advise her. Anyone who sells anything will get these biodegradable items.

Mark Olson said if anyone knows any vendors for the Green Fair to let Mark Olson know. Mark thinks there is a vendor who promotes solar panels. It would be a good idea to try to incorporate solar panels in the Community Garden.

Joe D'Angeli said he would like to take over the task of Community Education & Outreach and Innovative Community Project. He said he could do programs on the bald eagle as well as aquatic species, etc.

Mark Olson said ANJEC will do a storm water runoff presentation as part of the outreach program. He will check on a date in March and get back to everyone. He would like to get this in the newsletter so he thinks it will be done in late March or early April. Mark said he did ask them about the Green Fair as well and ANJEC said they will see about that.

**Website** – Hernan Osorio was present at the meeting to volunteer to handle the website for the Green Team. Members should send him anything he needs by February 10. Leslie Olson checked with Pave and the GT can do their own updates to the website. Mark said he doesn't want to edit what is sent in,

just coordinate it, and so please send it to Hernan in advance of the February 10 date so he has time to put it together before the newsletter deadline.

**New Business** – Mark Olson said the GT needs to decide when it wants to hold elections. He suggested that elections be held at the end of the first meeting of the year.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta that the GT elects its officers at the end of the first meeting of the year, normally to be held in January. All were in favor of this motion.

Nominations were taken for Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

A motion was made by Peggy Conversano and seconded by Joe D'Angeli nominating Mark Olson as Chairman. All were in favor of this motion.

A motion was made by Leslie Olson and seconded by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta nominating Peggy Conversano as Vice-Chairperson. All were in favor of this motion.

The meeting dates for 2017 were set for the fourth Thursday of the month, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the courtroom on the third floor of the municipal building as follows:

JANUARY 26	JULY 27 (IF NECESSARY)
FEBRUARY 23	AUGUST 24 (IF NECESSARY)
MARCH 23	SEPTEMBER 28
APRIL 27	OCTOBER 26
MAY 25	NOVEMBER 16 (THIRD THURSDAY)
JUNE 22	DECEMBER 28 (IF NECESSARY)

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Leslie Olson, adjourning the meeting at 7:55 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2017, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca