

**HOPEWELL VALLEY GREEN TEAM**  
**April 11, 2024, via Zoom**  
**Meeting Minutes**

In attendance: C. Meyer, J. Held, S. Fulmer, L & P. Kinney, D. Hirsch, H. Wilenius, K. Haren, D. Aicher, D. Geurds

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**RESIDENTIAL FOOD WASTE COMPOSTING**

What would a drop-off pilot project look like? (with Dolph Geurds). Other municipalities had the DEP shut down a central food waste collection. Dolph is working on a “bucket swap” in Somerville. Princeton has a central drop-off with 2 secure locations, but Dolph is unsure where that food waste is going, and there is most likely a methane problem. Dolph does have clients in Princeton. Working on a pilot program in West Windsor. We must educate people on how and why composting reduces HH general waste by about 70%. Dolph is open to new ideas and willing to try new ways of collection. Legislation coming up about mandatory composting in the schools and possibly for households (within the next 18-24 months). Dolph says BPI utensils and cups look promising for composting, but it is early in the process. New service -- One Compost Can will soon sell Terracycle bags and pick them up. Compost customers will receive a discount. Once your Terracycle subscription is over, Dolph will continue to sell their bags, and it is cost-effective to pick them up since he is in the neighborhoods. Can also work with Dolph if catering an event or having a party at your home since people are asking for it.

Scott mentioned that Hopewell Boro is considering a central compost location with a citizen group called The Compost Crew.

NJ PLASTIC ADVISORY COUNCIL HEARING? Scott listened to the meeting regarding the bottle bill and heard many voices from both sides of the issue. Perhaps it is time to redesign the whole recycling picture. Or is it to reduce litter? Clean Communities Act helps communities pick up litter and helps non-profits and was opposed to it. The Glass manufacturer in attendance favored the bottle bill for cleaner glass for recycling.

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF A GREEN TEAM MEMBER**

**Green Team Member Responsibilities**

- ~ Attend monthly meetings (second Thursday of the month, 7:30-9 pm via Zoom)
- ~ Participate in Citizen Education opportunities (Pennington Day, Hopewell Harvest Fair)
- ~ Assist with Recycling Events (Pennington Farmers Market, special events)
- ~ Select a focus area (see list below) where you can help lead our efforts

**Focus Areas**

Public Outreach: Facebook, Instagram, Flyers, Posters, etc

Municipal Government Support: Assistance with Sustainable Jersey Certification;  
Advice on Sustainability Issues

Recycling Efforts: Identify ways to reduce/reuse/recycle; Support recycling events

Coordination with Other Environmental Groups

Outreach to the Business Community (Bike and walking paths)

HOPEWELL BOROUGH CERTIFICATION - Heidi did not have any specific updates but looking toward having a focus meeting with Joann and others on how their various initiatives are coming along. May 10 is one of the certification deadlines.

PENNINGTON DAY (10-4 pm) (Set-up at 7:15 am)  
Metal Recycling Display - Scott has a 4' sculpture we can display!  
Staffing - we need 2 people per shift!

GRANTS APPLICATION UPDATES - the deadline was extended, and HT and Pennington Boro are working on their applications, and Hopewell Boro submitted a PSE&G grant and will know in May.

REDUCE/REUSE/RECYCLE - Scott mentioned that we will now collect art supplies for HomeFront at the PFM collections

GT WEBSITE (Scott) - Scott rearranged some areas of the website - check out the resources on building your own rainbarrel, added links, and added to the Take Action page. We discussed the outdated list of 10 things you can do on the website and decided that it needs to be updated. Everyone think about new ideas for this list for our next meeting.

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For Future Discussion

- WATER QUANTITY AND QUALITY
- CIRCULAR ECONOMY PARADIGM
- RESIDENTIAL FLOODING
- NATIVE PLANTS & POLLINATORS

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Apr 13: Boys and Girls Club Bike Collection (Hunt House Mercer Meadows)

April 16: Climate Change and What You Can Do 7-8:30 pm UUCWC

April 21: First Sustainable Picnic (Potluck) Hopewell Borough 5-7 pm Hopewell Train Station  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FL31I\\_kE\\_WtIRUnVN6aTXmxhKBVGgWLg/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FL31I_kE_WtIRUnVN6aTXmxhKBVGgWLg/view)

April 22: Earth Day

April 24: Stop Food Waste Day

May 3: Sustainable Jersey Summit (Holmdel) 9 am-4 pm

May 9: HV Green Team Meeting 7:30-9 pm

May 18: Pennington Day 10-4 pm

May 25: Pennington Farmers Market Opening Day! [NOT a recycling day]