

HOPEWELL VALLEY GREEN TEAM

January 9, 2025, via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

In attendance: J. Held, S. Fulmer, H. Wilenius, J. Gallagher, C. Meyer, R. Parker, D. Rubenstein, A. Johnson, D. Hirsch, K. Haren, L. Rapoport

SOCIAL MEDIA (Jack & Liz) - Jack reviewed the success of recent posts and the need to follow up with any questions posted.

NATIVE PLANT EVENTS Seed Sowing Extravaganza, Jan. 18 at school and get seedlings to plant in the spring. Continue to repost about this event. HV is seeking certification as a National Wildlife Federation habitat, requiring homes and businesses to conform, as well as other requirements to get more native plants into the community and educate the community. The first education session will be held at the Hopewell train station in a few weeks. More communication will come as the excitement of watching this initiative takes off!

BIKING INITIATIVES Don outlined the traffic around Stony Brook Elementary Bicycle Pedestrian Audit that evaluates the physical environment and also surveys parents, staff, and children about concerns about walking and cycling to school. Audits can be sent to the NJ Dept of Transportation for grants that could help calm traffic and education and outreach, such as pop-up traffic gardens.

REDUCE/REUSE/RECYCLE

- **Scrap Metal Collection** February 8, 2025 - suggestions to volunteer about wearing vests, heavy gloves, work boots, and parking at the top of the hill. A few will supervise the volunteers and give them a brief orientation. Joann to obtain a snow date. Decided not to accept dehumidifiers and air conditioners.
- **Styrofoam Update** - Monroe Township has a densifier, and we will possibly collect at the Hopewell RR Station and deliver to Monroe. They are considering approving our collection. Possibly host this event in the fall. This could be a step to talking about this with MCIA.
- **Pennington Environmental Commission** Program, January 30, 2025, there will be a virtual program on recycling from 7-8:15 pm.

- **Plastic Film:** The high school no longer accepts plastic film, and the bins may be relocated around Hopewell and possibly Pennington.

ENERGY

- **Community Energy Planning Grants** - A grant was awarded to pay for more EV chargers and the greening of municipal vehicles.
 - Pennington Borough
 - Hopewell Township

MUNICIPAL UPDATES

WEBSITE (Scott) Keeping up with the events and the recycling changes!

FOCUS AREAS FOR 2025?

Water conservation, circular economy (consume less, share more),

<https://wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-conserve-water>

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For Future Discussion

- BIKING ISSUES
- CIRCULAR ECONOMY PARADIGM
- RESIDENTIAL FLOODING
- NATIVE PLANTS & POLLINATORS

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 18: Native Seed Sowing Extravaganza, 10-1 at the High School

Jan 25: How to Create a Pollinator Garden 10:30-11:30 at the Train Station

Jan 26: Zero Waste Potluck & Puzzle Swap, 5-7 at the Hopewell Train Station

Jan 30: Pennington Borough Recycling Webinar, 7-8:15 pm (Virtual)

Feb 8: Scrap Metal Collection, 12-3 pm at Hopewell Twp Public Works

Feb 13: Green Team Meeting, 7:30-9 pm