

## HOPEWELL VALLEY GREEN TEAM

March 13, 2025, via Zoom

### Meeting Minutes

In attendance: J. Held, S. Fulmer, C. Meyer, H. Wilenius, K. Haren, Roxanne C., D. Hirsch, D. Rubenstein, J. Gallagher. D. Hirsch

**ADMINISTRATIVE:** HVGT tries not to endorse individual companies

**BIKING INITIATIVES** (Don) Initiative to make biking and walking to school safer to and from Stony Brook Elementary School. Parents are driving children to school because it is not safe. Many benefits to children if they can walk to school. A pre-audit walk was completed to determine what needs to be addressed to make walking safer, and a group met with the principal and local parents. The audit date is the end of either March or April. Then, grant funding will be applied for. Hopewell Elementary has already done an audit. Toll Gate does not have an issue. Bear Tavern is unique because biking and walking are challenging due to the few homes around the school. Next, we would provide safe corridors around Timberlane Middle School and the high school.

### **REDUCE/REUSE/RECYCLE**

Scrap Metal Collection final report - HT was pleased with the collection results. See the bottom of this document for a full accounting. The three staff people were very helpful. George Snyder will apply for a grant for this to be an annual event. We were able to put aside many items that were still in good condition. These were donated to Homefront or taken to the Habitat for Humanity ReStore.

### **HOSTING RECYCLING EVENT**

On February 27, the Pennington Environmental Commission hosted a Webinar on Recycling. The Recording is being hosted on our Green Team YouTube channel. You can find the video [HERE](#). Question about shredded paper and what to do with the shredded paper (use as compost, firestarters, worm bins, gardens, cat litter)

**SOCIAL MEDIA** (Jack) At least one post a week, recycle, metal recycling, bike exchange event) Web, social media, YouTube, email are the main distribution channels. We need more followers on Instagram! Heidi suggested a small giveaway and acknowledged that social media growth is slow from the beginning. We need followers to share our posts!

**WEBSITE** (Scott) Scott made a new page (not yet visible) on rehoming your unwanted goods, primarily donating, and is broken down by categories and places to offload

items, such as FB Buy Nothing groups and Cheap Skates. Notable Thrifts is a new thrift shop by Dunkin' Donuts and donates profits to charity. A listing of local thrift shops will be added to this new page. Jack will do social media once the page is up.

**NATIVE PLANT EVENTS:** FOLLOW-UP (Jack; Kim) host a NWF certification - maybe include native plant information on our website. The messaging is still developing. Local nurseries are carrying native plants. Sourland is developing a tiered native plant certification. Many certification programs are sprouting in our area.

<https://hvgardensforwildlife.weebly.com/>

## **WATER ISSUES** (Pennington Day Focus)

### Water Supply

The first question is, "Where does my drinking water come from?" We have agreed that we should focus some of our efforts in 2025 on Water. We will gather information about Water Supply, Water Quality, and Stormwater Management for homeowners to share via our website and when we are out and about at Pennington Day.

Check out this page on the Hopewell Township Website about sources of water in the Township: [Public Water Systems](#). And this page with advice on Water Testing for Well Owners: [Water Quality](#)

We also plan to contact the Watershed Institute to see what resources exist.

HT: <https://www.hopewelltpw.org/738/Public-Water-Systems-Serving-the-Hopewell>

### Water Quality

- o PFOS, PFAS (new mandate will be zero), etc.
- o Water Filters
- o Testing Your Well Water <https://www.hopewelltpw.org/180/Water-Quality>
- o Who to call if you have a question

### Stormwater Control

- o Best Practices for Homeowners
- o MyCoast App (High Water)

### Other??

- Resources from The Watershed Institute
- Host a public forum
- Focus on water conservation

## **ENERGY**

### Community Energy Planning Grants

- o Pennington Borough
- o Hopewell Township

**MUNICIPAL UPDATES** - HT and Pennington Boro will meet to combine ideas on using SJ grant funds. Three meetings are planned, and energy-oriented building codes will be adopted.

Hopewell Boro is planning their community potluck dates. Hoping to join with Master Gardeners to conduct a workshop on composting. Review of collected plastic wrap. Timeline was extended until the end of the year to meet their goal of 1000 pounds.

Trex will help fund a baler to condense and store the plastic. They might appeal to HT as a grass-roots partnership. Grass-roots partnerships collect the plastic to take the strain off Wegmans and enlist local groups. More than halfway to their goal of 1000#s.

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For Future Discussion

- CIRCULAR ECONOMY PARADIGM

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Apr 10: Green Team Meeting 7:30 - 9 pm
- Apr 12: Bike Collection at Hunt House 12 - 4 pm
- May 9: SJ Sustainability Summit, Holmdel, 9 am -
- May 17: Pennington Day, 10 am - 4 pm

| <b>Scrap Metal Collection Report for the 2025 Event</b> |                         |                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Pounds (3 trucks)                                       | Rate per hundred pounds | Amount                                |
| 3,520                                                   | <b>\$6.75</b>           | \$237.60                              |
| 4,140                                                   | \$6.75                  | \$279.45                              |
| 1,120                                                   | \$6.75                  | \$ 75.60                              |
| <b>8,780 Total pounds received</b>                      |                         | <b>\$592.65 Total amount received</b> |

Last year (2024) for the first collection event:

| <b>Scrap Metal Collection Report for the 2024 Event</b> |                         |                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Pounds (3 trucks)                                       | Rate per hundred pounds | Amount                                  |
| 4,360                                                   | <b>\$9.50</b>           | \$414.20                                |
| 6,380                                                   | \$9.50                  | \$606.10                                |
| 2,500                                                   | \$9.50                  | \$237.50                                |
| 1,200 Fence                                             | \$.40 per pound         | \$480.00                                |
| 200 Christmas Wire                                      | \$.25 per pound         | \$ 50.00                                |
| <b>14,640 Total pounds received</b>                     |                         | <b>\$1,787.80 Total amount received</b> |

The first event had more poundage, which would be expected as residents cleaned out from many years of storing metal waste. Last year, the rate per hundred pounds was substantially higher.