**Washington Township Green Team**

**Ad Hoc Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday September 4th, 2018 6:30pm Minutes**

**Washington Township Municipal Building**

Members Present: Chairman Dan Ross, Paula Ross, Denise Spina-Belsky, and David Belsky

Members of the public: None.

Others Present: Township Committeeman: Gregg Forsbrey

Called to Order at: 6:34pm

1. **Old Business**:

**Harrington Fields Pollinator Meadow**- Paula told the group that DPW has been consistently mowing the trail along the meadow, and that everything looks good, although we certainly need more rain! Denise asked whether or not we had picked a date when we might be planting next and the group decided it will be weather dependent but likely in October sometime. An official workday is still to be determined yet. Paula told the group that she plans on bringing one of the newly acquired TREX benches to the festival, to show the public. Dan mentioned the upcoming need to possibly assist the trails committee with trail blazing to continue the trail path looking ahead to next year’s interpretative trail installation. Gregg asked about where the new trail would physically be, and Dan and Paula explained to the group the plans that had been discussed with the trails committee, and where the new trail was intended to be located.

1. **Market at Long Valley-** Dan mentioned that the market is ten weeks in, and that we have been slowly growing week after week.Denise informed the group that she had heard back from Dean’s Market in Chester, and the new manager there might be interested in joining to sell either produce or vegetarian options. Dan and Paula explained the challenges we have been dealing with in regards to getting a steady supplier of produce at the market so far. Paula brought up the fact that one of our newest vendors had suggested some better advertising efforts such as an “open today” banner near the road. Other challenges have included maintaining vendors and the weather. Paula also brought up the fact that Farmer Totten is bringing his therapy horse next week, and also mentioned that the kids will be doing their karate soon. Dan mentioned that Chef Pat had offered to bring a drum circle if we thought it could help. Paula passed around the thank you note from 11th Hour Rescue for the group to read. Dan reminded the group that we are still looking to continuing the charitable causes each week, and welcomed any new suggestions. Dan also brought up the need to establish a market committee next year and asked the group if they had any suggestions for volunteers.

**Partnering with Schools**: Nothing new to report, although with the new school year just beginning we are hopeful to get more involved in the coming months.

**Green Festival:** Paula mentioned how we are planning on having all of the political booths in one area this year and differentiate them from the other exhibitors.Dan mentioned that we are currently at 28 vendors/ exhibitors this year, which is a new record! Even with having a few drop out last minute, this proves to be quite a successful event. Dan asked the group what everyone’s availability was to work shifts at the booth at the festival. Paula reminded the group what the plan was for the table display for this year, as well as the overall theme of reducing single use disposable plastics. Denise and David said they would be able to work the festival hours, and asked if they should bring anything specific for the table displays. Dan told the group that Patty had mentioned to him what they had available for passport game prizes, and the group decided how best to distribute them. Gregg brought up the fact that we still had the water bottles as well and could possible give those away as well this year, and the group decided we would certainly do our best to give the remaining bottles away this year.

**Fundraising/ New Grants:** Nothing new to report or discuss.

**Outreach:**  Dan mentioned that we need to work on better increasing our outreach via social media and Gregg offered to work with us on promoting to local demographics here in town. Dan mentioned how much we have grown in terms of unique likes and check-ins. But also mentioned that there was still plenty of room to grow even further!

**Open Discussion:** Dan told the group that we have the date for Clean Communities and that we would need members from the group to sign up in advance so that we could qualify for the funding. Paula told the group that the dates would be October 13th-20th …and that she thought we should target the Cataract Park area. The group decided to participate on Saturday the 13th. Paula also reminded the group that we should aim to have our new “Green Team Event Here Today” signs made up before then, so we could benefit from the added roadside exposure.

**Call to adjourn:** 7:30pm