

HOPATCONG ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Annual Report for 2018

I. Administrative

- 2018 Hopatcong Environmental Commission membership: Jule Girman - Chair, Pat Hoferkamp -Vice Chair, Georgia Schilling -Treasurer, Lisa Hirschfeld - cross-member to the Open Space Committee, Bradley Hoferkamp, Jen Barone, Rich Schindelar-Land Use Appointee, Joel Servoss (1st Alternate), Jerry Scanlan (2nd Alternate), Richard Modes (Altermate), John Young-Council Liaison.
- Conducted 10 regular monthly public meetings at Hopatcong Borough Hall. (July & Dec mtgs cancelled)
- Membership in the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC)
- Membership in the Musconetcong Watershed Association.

II. Outreach & Education

- We support the LH Foundation – Our Env Comm works with the LHF in a variety of different ways, first and foremost in stewardship of Lake Hopatcong. EC members including Georgia Schilling, Lisa Hirschfeld, Jen Barone and Jule Girman volunteer their time and efforts assisting with LHF programs, such as the LHF Field Trips for 4th and 5th grade students and The Floating Classroom, where students of all ages get to perform experiments to determine the health of a lake and how we can preserve our lakes and waterways for recreation and a clean water supply. The Hopatcong Environmental Commission was proud to nominate the LH Foundation for an ANJEC Environmental Achievement Award and was honored to be a part of the recognition and presentation at ANJEC’S Annual Environmental Congress in October.
- We also support and promote the LH Trail, from creation and maintenance to programs and hikes. This year we planned a guided hike on the LH Trail at Mtn Inlet in celebration of Earth Day. We had an excellent turnout and it was enjoyed by all who participated despite t light rain. This Fall a local scout troop approached us about their plans to adopt a section of the trail from the Senior Ctr (D) to Hilltop Fld (C). For their Bronze Award they plan to advertise trail programs & hikes and promote other groups to do likewise, After being introduced to a program called “Walk with a Doc” the Environmental commission has plans to blaze more trail spurs for greater neighborhood access and promote a program called “Walk with a Doc”
- We continue to support the Musconetcong Watershed Assn with a membership, but no longer perform actual water testing. The testing site has been moved from the local Willow Street access and is now done by a dedicated team of volunteers at the new site in Stanhope. We remain available to help when testing is needed at the outflow of Lake Hopatcong and whenever called upon to be of assistance.
- Paper Shredding Day- 9/15/18 - Originally conceived and executed by the Environmental Commission, Shredding Day is now a scheduled annual event funded through Clean Communities. It is anticipated and appreciated by the residents of Hopatcong, but its primary benefit is to the environment by keeping pounds and pounds of recycled paper out of the landfill. This year we found our regular paper shredder had gone out of business and our scheduled Spring event had to be canceled. After some checking with other towns we were able to find a new one. Because of the cancellation, the event date changed from May to Sept it turned out to be more successful than usual because it fell on the same day as the Environmental Commission’s Town Clean-up day! Total weight of paper shredded was 1805 lbs. We were very pleased and will try to schedule it to coordinate with Town Clean-up Day every year.
- Deer Management Task Force –The Environmental Commission has monitored deer management for several years through its representative on the task force, John Young. Since there has been a successful decrease in the deer population throughout the borough, the task force as such is no longer necessary. It has been determined that regulated seasonal deer hunting is expected to continue for years to come and is currently appears adequate to keep deer population in control.
- NJ Tree Recovery Program -- This was to be the 5th and final year for this highly successful program in which the state provides free tree seedlings for municipalities to distribute to residents free of charge. This five-year program was originally started in 2014 to replace trees felled by Hurricane Sandy. Unfortunately, our notification to apply was late and because there was a huge response in this announced last year, the

HOPATCONG ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Annual Report for 2018

trees were all gone by the time our application and those from other towns were received by the DEP. As a result, the state is adding another year to the program and trees will be available again in 2019. We have already applied for 850 trees in 2019 to be given out in May, first at Borough Hall and again the following week at the LHF Block Party.

- 2018 LHF Block Party – This highly anticipated event has had a history of bad weather and this year did not disappoint. It was rainy, windy, and cold, but crowds of people attended the event despite the weather. Attendance at our booth was high, and children in particular liked the environmental games and the prizes they could win for answering a variety of environmental questions. Displays borrowed from ANJEC rounded out our booth theme.
- Earth Day Hike – April 21st-- Approximately 25 hikers participated in a hike on the Lk Hopatcong Trail by the Hopatcong Senior Center. Organized by the Hopatcong EC, it was led and narrated by Cliff Lundin to celebrate Earth Day 2018.
- Anti-Litter Poster Contest -- Lisa Hirschfeld conducted a very successful Poster Contest for 5th graders from Durbin Ave School, and the winning posters were displayed at our Hopatcong Days booth in July. The contest was coordinated with the Durban Ave Art Dept and the topic was Anti-Litter. Winners were introduced at the June 11th Council meeting and the top 3 winners received award ribbons and gift certificates for Cliff's Ice Cream.
- Green Fair/ Hopatcong Days -- July 14th. The Hopatcong Environmental Comm once again incorporated a Green Fair into the annual Hopatcong Days celebration with additional green vendors and services participating this year. There were the usual organizations such as LHF, MWA, SC Mosquito Control, NJ Highlands Coalition, and Hopatcong Community Garden, as well as a variety of green vendors such as Hula Yoga, Presto Garden supplies, a gutter company, O.S.C.A.R, Animal Rescue, and others. This year we added Sussex County Community College, and Project Self Sufficiency. The Hopatcong EC had its regular booth with ANJEC displays on storm water management and the usual game wheel, as well as a booth on Invasives and a display of the Poster entries from the Anti-Litter Poster Contest. As a booth giveaway we offered a car magnet reminding us that "Litter is Trashy. The Green Fair was successful and well attended, and will be repeated again next year.
- The Hopatcong Environmental Commission Facebook Page is a lively and informative source of environmental tips and announcements maintained by member, Jen Barone. In addition to her work with the Environmental Commission, Jen is known in her role as President of the Hopatcong Community Garden. Our sincere thanks to Jen for keeping our environmentally-minded FB followers well-informed throughout the year. Great job Jen!
- Recertified with Sustainable Jersey at Bronze Level – Application approved at 15 actions in 7 categories for 150 points, the Hopatcong EC was certified at the Bronze Level in 2018 for the second time:
- Town-wide Litter Cleanup – Sept 15th – The Hopatcong EC partnered with Sussex County Mosquito Control on a well-advertised Town-wide Litter Cleanup targeted to combat mosquito breeding promoted by standing water in littered containers and bottles. Well over 100 volunteers and girl scouts gathered at Borough Hall for information and instructions from Paige Lockburner of Sussex County Mosquito Control and Christine Rogers of Sussex Co Clean Communities. Volunteers were signed in and provided bags, gloves, and cleanup tools before deploying to their chosen area for cleanup. Girl Scouts and some of the volunteers worked in teams and all litter was brought to the DPW where Steve Millian was on hand to receive the collections. It was a very successful event and one that will undoubtedly be repeated again next year. Litter pickup and mosquito control are extremely important issues in maintaining our environment.
- The Hopatcong EC Nominated the LH Foundation for an ANJEC Environmental Achievement Award – The LHF was nominated and chosen for an ANJEC Environmental Achievement Award for their Floating Classroom. Nominator, Jule Girman accompanied Donna McHalle-Holly of the LHF to receive the award at the 45th Environmental Congress held at Mercer County Community College in West Windsor on

HOPATCONG ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Annual Report for 2018

October 12th where former Governor, Christy Whitman, was keynote speaker addressing the group on current environmental issues.

- 2nd Lake-wide Cleanup/5 year drawdown of Lake Hopatcong – on Sat, Nov. 3rd, Hopatcong EC members volunteered in several clean up areas depending where they were needed, and nearly all were on hand to help in the cleanup. Jerry Scanlan made his property available as an access to Byram Cove, where a number of the members worked, with additional volunteers joining the clean up at this location. Despite the rain, the cold, and the mud, the 2018 Cleanup was a huge success and total debris removed exceeded the expectations.

Proposed 2019 Projects

Submit Grants for environmental projects as grant opportunities arise.

Submit Sustainable Jersey Application

Completion Date TBD – Work toward Silver Status

Status: Website can be found at: <http://www.sustainablejersey.com/>.

Goal of recertifying for increased points toward acquiring Silver Status.

Girl Scout

Trail Project to Achieve Bronze

Support Girl Scout Troop 6094 in their adoption of the LHT section by the Senior Ctr. for maintenance and for conducting programs and hikes, and encouraging other groups to do the same.

Installation of a Rain Garden

Completion Date: Summer 2019 – pending outcome of grant submitted to Sustainable Jersey on Feb 15th.

Status: Working with plans prepared by Rutgers for dual Rain Gardens at the Senior Center utilizing stormwater runoff from roof, hillside, and parking lot.

Tree Recovery Program

Completion Date: May 2019

Status: 6th and final year of the NJ Tree Recovery program. This year we plan to give away/plant 850 tree seedlings throughout the borough to replenish those lost as a result of storms and the Emerald Ash Tree Bore.

LHF Block Party May 11^h, 2019 HEC Booth

Hopatcong Days 2019 July 13th, 2019 Booth theme: to be determined
3rd Annual Green Fair is planned.

Environmental Seminar Tentative date Sept 21st, Location Hopatcong Senior Ctr.
Sessions currently in planning stages,

Additional projects and plans to be proposed as we move through the year..

Respectively Submitted,

Jule Girman, Chair

Hopatcong Environmental Commission