

Green Team Meeting – Minutes
Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Commencement – 5:35 pm

Location: Washington Borough Municipal Building, 100 Belvidere Avenue, 1st Floor
Conference Room, Washington, NJ 07882

Members:

- Brian Bond - Borough Manager
- Dave Butler - Term to 12/31/27 (Vice Chair)
- Louann Cox – Mayor
- Michael Franks - Term to 12/31/28
- Suzanne Marr – Term to 12/31/28
- Marco Matteo – Term to 12/31/26 Council Liaison
- Josephine Noone-Term to 12/31/28 (Secretary)
- Gary Pohorely – Term to 12/31/28 (Chair)
- Kristy Romanowski – WBID interim Executive Director

Members Present: Dave Butler, Louann Cox, Michael Franks, Suzanne Marr, Marco Matteo, Josephine Noone, Gary Pohorely, Kristy Romanowski

Guests Present: Jessica Bartelloni, (WBID Executive Assistant), Dan Hirshberg (WBID PR Consultant)

Minutes Review/Approval: Approved minutes from January 7, 2026. Motion to approve by Louann Cox, 2nd by Dave Butler. Minutes approved by members present.

Farmers Market:

Suggested Themes & Dates

June 13-Sustainably Green Music & Arts Festival

June 20-Bee-rooted Community - Rooted locally, growing together

June 27-Sweet as Honey Saturday - Naturally Sweet, Locally Made

July 4-Little Washington Celebrates America’s 250th Independence Day (Green Team will run it)

July 11-Snack Attack Saturday - Buzzing Little Bites

July 18- International Flavor Day

July 25-Heroes of Our Hive – Honoring those who serve and protect our community

August 1-Community Connections Day – Chalk the Walk (add something for seniors)

August 8-Bee Grateful for Our Farmers (National Farmers Market Week)

August 15-Sauces, Spice & Everything Nice (tomatoes are ripe at this time)

August 22-Sunflower Saturday - Buzzing with Sunshine

August 29- Last Buzz of the Summer (beach balls, hoola hoops for adults to play with too!)

September 5-Busy Bee Kids Day

Sept 12-Savory Saturday - Buzzing with Bold Flavor

Sept 19-Yard Sale Day - Buzzing Borough Bargains (yard sale day & last day of the Farmers Market)

Dan suggested moving one or two of the events to different dates. Suzanne, Josephine, and Louann can meet with WBID staff separately as needed regarding dates/themes.

For 2026, the market hours are 9:30 am to 1:00 pm.

Kristy Romanowski has submitted the application to accept EBT/SNAP benefits at the farmers' market. Once it is approved, Kristy will purchase an EBT card machine. She has signed up for the Good Bucks program, which provides extra funds for purchasing produce to people with EBT cards/SNAP benefits. She has been talking to Artic Foods to see if they can offer meat for sale at the market.

Dan Hirshberg will book entertainment for every market. Kristy confirmed that there is money in the budget for weekly entertainment.

Please use washingtonbid@gmail.com for all WBID correspondence.

Diana Dove would like us to collect corks at the Farmers' Market this year for her to reuse for crafts.

Communications:

Data Centers Model Ordinance: Warren County Commissioner James Kern sent a model ordinance to Mayor Cox and Brian Bond, which would make data centers a non-permitted/prohibited use in Washington Borough. This information was also emailed to Josephine Noone as she is a member of the Warren County Environmental Advisory Committee. Josephine shared the letter from Commissioner Kern and the model ordinance with Green Team members and we discussed it at this meeting.

The members of the Washington Borough Green Team support passage of a Data Centers Ordinance by the Washington Borough Council, which would make data centers a non-permitted/prohibited use. Motion to approve by Gary Pohorely, 2nd by Kristy Romanowski. Approved by acclamation.

Shabbecong Mountain Preserve (SMP) update:

Gary Pohorely and Mike Franks met with Borough Manager Brian Bond, Jonathan James (DPW Supervisor) and Darryl Wright (DP) to discuss how the DPW could help us maintain the Preserve. The DPW agreed to investigate the access at Mill Pond Road. Jonathan suggested a small drainage pipe and stone to secure a more accessible entry. He will look into this in the spring. The DPW will help with mowing at the western edge of the Preserve. At this end the Preserve trail follows a former logging road where a mower can easily maneuver. They will work with Mike to relocate our old preserve sign at the west end. Also, they may have a No Littering sign available for the Nunn Avenue entrance.

There was also discussion of allowing bow hunting for a fee, which would offset costs associated with maintaining the preserve. Bow hunters could also help with maintenance of the property.

Mike is going to order the cork tiles for the new kiosk at the Nunn Avenue entrance.

The trails are in good shape. There are a few trees down that need to be removed in the spring.

The final scheduled hike is this Sunday, February 14 at 11:00 am. There have been very few people coming to the hikes in January and February.

2026 Budget Request: We need to request \$200 for the 2026 Green Team budget for preserve maintenance materials (weed whacker head and battery, and replacement chain for chain saw).

Sustainable Jersey Certification:

Josephine Noone and Suzanne Marr attended the Borough Council meeting on January 20. Mayor Cox recognized the Green Team for our work in achieving Bronze Certification.

David Butler suggested some ideas that we could pursue towards our next certification effort.

Sustainable Jersey Grant Updates:

Tracy Quame provided Josephine Noone with copies of all of the paid invoices. Josephine will complete the final paperwork for the Washington Public Library Wildlife Habitat Garden \$2,000 grant in February.

Kristy Romanowski wrote a \$10,000 PSEG Grant for Creative Place Making. Josephine Noone wrote a letter of support on behalf of the Green Team. Brian Bond is writing up a resolution of support that the Borough Council needs to approve before March 16th. Kristy Romanowski will send a summary of the grant to Louann Cox to share with the rest of the Borough Council.

NWF Community Wildlife Habitat Program:

We have 19 certified wildlife habitats in Washington Borough. We need 150 points for certification. We all need to try to recruit more people/businesses to certify their properties. Information is posted on the Washington Borough website and postcards with information are available in the Municipal Building. There is also information at the Washington Public Library where the demonstration garden has been planted. Josephine ordered more literature to give out at the Hope Green Fest, Sustainably Green Music & Arts Festival, and Farmers Markets.

Once we upgrade the landscaping in Veterans' Park, we will be able to certify that area as a community wildlife habitat. We need to remove the Japanese Barberry because it is now on the list of prohibited invasive species in New Jersey. The WBID & Warren Garden Club will collaborate with the Green Team on upgrading the landscaping at Veterans' Park.

Marco Matteo will contact Lambertville and Highbridge for ideas on getting more homeowners and businesses to certify their properties because those communities have a lot of certified wildlife habitats.

DASACC assistance for 2026:

Suzanne Marr and Gary Pohorely met with DASACC staff. We agreed to help with weeding on the first Friday of each month at 5 p.m. starting in April and ending in October. One DASACC staff person will contact their volunteers and encourage them to help. We will only work on the grounds outside of the fenced area. The garden area inside the fence will be handled solely by DASACC.

Old Business:

A 'No Littering' sign is still needed at the trailhead on Nunn Avenue. Three pallets dumped at the trailhead need to be removed/disposed of along with a pile of debris from the boardwalk construction.

New Projects for 2026:

Mayor Cox suggested that we collect and utilize rain barrels. Gary Pohorely will talk to Matt Trochim, the Watershed Ambassador for Watershed Management Area (WMA) 1, about a rain barrel workshop or creating barrels for use in Washington Borough. Mayor Cox will speak to Brian Bond to see if any rain barrels and/or rain gardens could be installed at Borough Hall.

Dave Butler will create a list of items to recycle/donate that we will collect at the farmers market on a weekly basis. This list will be shared on social media and the borough website.

Public Property by the Community Garden/Detention Basin:

Years ago, the Green Team obtained two grants to purchase small trees and shrubs. Volunteers helped us plant them on Borough property by the Community Garden. Now some of those trees are sizable. Given the many people residing in that area, Gary thought the area around the detention basin could be made more accommodating by adding some benches. We will reach out to local businesses to donate benches.

Other Business:

Mayor Cox would like to invite Ben Fedon to an upcoming council meeting to recognize his work in creating the kiosk at the trailhead and the boardwalk at the Shabbecong Mountain Preserve. Gary Pohorely will reach out to Ben Fedon to find out when his Eagle Court of Honor is going to take place and to get some information from him for a council proclamation.

Past Events:

January 20: At the Washington Borough Council Meeting, Mayor Cox and Borough Council recognized the Green Team for our work in obtaining Sustainable Jersey Bronze Certification for 2025-2028. Josephine Noone and Suzanne Marr attended the meeting.

February 5: At the Little Washington Business Recognition Dinner, Green Team Secretary Josephine Noone was recognized as WBID Community Partner of the Year. It was a wonderful community celebration!

Upcoming Events:

Shabbecong Creek Cleanup: We are coordinating with the Musconetcong Watershed Association on April 4, 2026. They will provide us with gloves, bags and publicity.

Green Team Outreach:

- We will continue to reach out to the Scouts, Earth Rights, MWA, and other local organizations regarding collaborations.

- Josephine & Suzanne will regularly send information, fliers, and requests for volunteers to the Messenger & WRNJ.

Next Meeting – March 11, 2026, 5:30 pm

Meeting ended: 7:17 pm, motion to adjourn by David Butler, 2nd by Mike Franks. Approved by acclamation.

Submitted by: Josephine Noone, Green Team Secretary