



TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

201 WASHINGTON CROSSING-PENNINGTON ROAD
TITUSVILLE, NEW JERSEY 08560-1410
609-737-0605

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING AND MODIFIED PROCEDURES Hopewell Township Environmental Commission; February 17^h, 2026; 7:00PM

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, and inconsideration of Executive Order No. 103, issued by Governor Murphy on March 9, 2022, declaring a “State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency in the State of New Jersey”, the Township of Hopewell does hereby notify the public that to protect the health, safety and welfare of our citizens while ensuring the continued functioning of government, the regular meeting of the Hopewell Township Environmental Commission scheduled for Tuesday February 17th, 2026 at 7:00 PM, will be held electronically only. The purpose of this meeting is to conduct the business of the Environmental Commission as listed on the agenda posted on the Hopewell Township Website located at: <https://www.hopewelltwp.org/agendacenter>

Members of the public who wish to participate in the meetings by telephone may do so by calling 1-646-876-9923 followed by **Meeting Number ID:** 823 4730 1026 **Passcode:** 484431 Individuals calling into this number will be able to fully participate in the meeting, and provide public comment.

Members of the public who wish to participate via the video conferencing platform may join by accessing the following link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82347301026?pwd=ItLy1hVeF0M6IFVJbRVxAdewiE1Th0.1>

Meeting ID: 823 4730 1026

Passcode: 484431

One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
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- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
- +1 646 931 3860 US
- +1 507 473 4847 US
- +1 564 217 2000 US
- +1 669 444 9171 US
- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcW9cKLLEV>



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**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
TENTATIVE AGENDA TO THE EXTENT KNOWN**

**Tuesday, February 17th, 2026, 7:00 P.M.
Regular Meeting**

I. Call to Order/ Statement of Compliance

The Hopewell Township Environmental Commission meeting is hereby called to order at 7:00 p.m. Notice of this meeting has been posted on the municipal bulletin board and forwarded to the Hopewell Township Official Newspapers in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

II. Roll Call

III. Minutes for Approval: January, 2026

IV. Public Comment (Agenda Items)

V. Planning and Zoning Board Applications

a. Zoning Board Application Documents:

Case Materials posted at <http://www.hopewelltwp.org/294/Zoning-Board-of-Adjustment>

None

b. Planning Board Application Documents

Case Materials posted at <https://www.hopewelltwp.org/291/Planning-Board>

1. Notification Only - No Review Anticipated: Block 21 Lot 15-165 Stony Brook Road -

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton – Final Site Plan & amendment of proposed parking lot.

VI. Report of Subcommittees / Discussion and Updates - Ongoing Projects

a. Report from Township Committee liaison

b. Report from Planning Board

c. Report from Zoning Board – No liaison currently appointed

d. Proposed Native Plant Amendment to environmental ordinances for new development applications – Status of revised draft amendment

e. Hopewell Valley Gardens for Wildlife. Kirsi Bhasin

f. Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP) requires resubmission and acceptance by December 31, 2025. Status update of actions to revise, approve and submit for accreditation.



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- g. **Amphibian and Reptile Crossing Infrastructure** – Sourland Conservancy will be presenting at the February 17th Township Committee Meeting
- h. **Drought status and Scotch Rd ground water monitor data**
 - Consider EC sponsorship to revise the existing (§ 16-5.2 Water Conservation Restriction) ordinance for SJ Water Conservation and Gold Start certification (20 points). Key revisions include:
 - General lawn/landscape watering restrictions (at all times, not limited to abnormally dry or drought conditions).
 - Provisioning and regulation of SMART watering controllers.
 - Regulation of irrigation systems programmed and monitored by an irrigation manager
 - Regulation of all automatic irrigation systems.
 - Means of enforcement of violations and potential penalties, as well as exemptions for leveraging alternative water sources (including harvesting, gray water, etc.)

VII. Review

- a. **2026 Goals**
 - 1. Evaluate situation on drought preparedness ordinance and influence
 - 2. Collaborate with local communities/municipalities to create a habitat corridor (as recommended by CHANJ)
 - 3. Pursue Sustainable Jersey Silver Certification with an incremental objective of achieving a SJ Gold Star for Water management
 - 4. Pursue revision, adoption and accreditation of the Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP) compliant with DEP guidelines revised as of January, 2024.
 - 5. Monitor progress of the township to revise the stormwater management ordinance.
 - 6. Coordinate with Township administration and the Township Committee to adopt a revised Tree Protection & Replacement Ordinance compliant with current DEP tree removal and replacement guidelines and municipal Stormwater (MS4) Permit requirements.

VIII.

IX. New Business

- a. **Recommendation to the Township Committee to issue a resolution recognizing and honoring Mike Aucott for his decades of services on the Environmental Commission and extensive contributions to the township and community.**
- b. **Trenton Airport Pollution Concerns** – Andrew Plunkett
- c. **Need to Discuss** until resolution of proposed Native Plant Amendment project: Discuss HOAs common ban on native plant heights, which can be detrimental to the community. Consider possible actions to require HOAs revise their rules. **Deferred**
 - Does Hopewell Township specify a front yard plant height rule in existing ordinances?
 - Consider updating or defining specific minimum and maximum allowable height requirements.



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- X. Announcements & Correspondence**
- XI. Executive Session**
- XII. Public Comment**
- XIII. Adjournment**

Copies of information related to this agenda are available for viewing during regular business hours in the Community Development Office located at the Hopewell Township Municipal Building, or at the noted website posting.



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