



SHP Meeting Notes 4/19/17

Attendees: Tina Weishaus, Irene Marx, Nicole Wines, Andy Benesch, Teri Jover, Allan Williams, Eli Goldstein, Hagit Mano, Sylvia Hove, Randall Solomon, Councilman Phil George

I. HS ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

1. Earth Day - Presented on sustainable transportation, and healthy eating. Also promoted current GoFundMe fundraiser and their current poster contest.
2. 4th Green Challenge - Begins at the beginning of May when the new bike racks are installed. Focus is on biking & walking to school instead of being dropped off by car. Included in the challenge is a poster competition open to all, students and community members, promoting sustainable transportation. This green challenge is an open challenge; members of the public are invited to participate in the sustainable transportation pledge. Link will be made available to all when pledge form is ready. All who pledge and all who create posters will be entered to win a prize. Grand prize is a \$25 gift certificate to a bike shop or a shoe store.
3. HP Owl sculptures have been completed. GoFundMe Fundraiser is still open. Link to donate and share: <https://www.gofundme.com/hphstreets>

II. EARTH DAY

1. We spoke about back up plans for inclement weather, but the weather turned out great so all I will put here is congratulations to all who helped make this happen for a successful day.

III. SJ GRANT STATUS

1. This is the grant we submitted to Sustainable Jersey to create a program to reduce the use of plastic bags and increase recycling awareness among Main Street Businesses. Grant award announcements were going to be made by end of April, so we should find out soon.

IV. SHP TRANSITION

1. Teri will be resigning from her position as chair and as a member of the committee, as she will be starting a new position as Borough Administrator. Councilman Phil George explained that the mayor would make the appointment of a new chair, but that the SHP committee can make a recommendation.
2. Tina Weishaus was recommended as the Chair, Allan Williams was recommended as Vice Chair. Councilman George will make the recommendations to the Borough.
3. Question of who was able to commit the time needed to carry out current and upcoming initiatives was the most difficult part of making a decision on whom to recommend. Committee members agreed to continue taking an active role and to step up and help with more of the upcoming work in order to make the transition smoother and take some of the pressure and workload from the new chair.

V. ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING STATION

1. In order to be placed on state waiting list for EC charging station grants, we have to get Borough approval. This will be passed along through Councilman George.

VI. SOLAR CHALLENGE

1. The challenge will be open through the end of May, but portal will remain open beyond the end of the challenge. In addition to the grand prize, there are 2nd and 3rd place prizes
2. A big push was made at Earth Day, and will be made again for the upcoming Street Fair (May 7). Posters were created for these events, and a poster will be placed into the Environmental Education Center kiosk.
3. SHP member Tina Weishaus was the first to follow through and contract with an installer to get panels!
4. EnergySage has provided a draft email, which can be personalized and distributed, to all registered users from the town. Teri will edit this draft for distribution.

VII. SUSTAINABLE JERSEY RECERTIFICATION

1. Recent suggestion of using delegates to communicate with various departments and other committees for upcoming Sustainable Jersey recertification is still valid. Randy made a suggestion for a DPW liaison to attend 3-4 SHP meetings per year. This would have to be worked out in contracts in future renegotiations. There is precedent from other towns, and this would be helpful for SJ recertification.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. NJ March for Science was held on Saturday, April 22, with climate change as a central issue for this march. A local group was leaving on the 9:11 train to travel to Trenton together.
2. Raíces EcoCulture Seed Library Work Party was also held Saturday, April 22 with about ten members and volunteers attending.
3. Central NJ Progressive Democrats are building a progressive caucus from the ground up, using no private money for funding. They are running 100 candidates in the Central NJ primaries from town committees to state level. Website: <http://www.centraljerseyprogressivedemocrats.org/>
4. Government Energy Aggregation/"Community Choice Energy" - Randy spoke about other county Sustainable Jersey hubs that are working on this, like Essex Hub, and suggested that Highland Park move forward to do this as well with a group of towns. Municipalities can decide instead of the state who the default energy provider is for their town's energy, and can actually become energy buyers for the whole town, as well as define the percentage of green energy it is committed to purchasing. This can also be done together by groups of municipalities, making it safer, resulting in lower administrative costs and stronger purchasing power as well as negotiation power to set terms of contracts. Currently, 80% of the state of NJ is on the default energy providers. An example of a single town that has done this is West Orange, resulting in \$2 million in energy savings for residents. Towns can also hold events to help reduce peak demand/usage and increase energy efficiency.
5. HP Food Pantry collaborated with Scarlet Day of Service, also on Saturday, April 22, to bring volunteers to clean up the native plant preserve as well as hold a food drive for the pantry.
6. Raíces EcoCulture Sustainable Living Workshop Series will begin on May 9th. The first half of the series will run through the end of June, with a total of 6 workshops. All committee members please help spread the word. Events and info are on Facebook (check the Sustainable HP page for the event link) and the Raíces website. Details will also be placed on the upcoming Sustainable HP website. Full schedule is available at: <http://www.raicesculturalcenter.org/ecoculture/sustainable-living-workshop-series/>
7. Raíces Community Calendar - All members who have events and/or programs that can be announced to the community, please forward the info to nicole@raicesculturalcenter.org and it can be added. All SHP events are automatically added to the calendar. We can base our upcoming website's calendar off of same model and even share events between the calendars that deal with sustainability and environmental issues.

8. Website & Communications - Nicole will have website ready by next meeting and volunteered to handle additional communications and outreach (i.e. Facebook, creation of mailing list, calendar to add all of the events we hold, as well as those mentioned in New Business and Announcements, as above, and additional ecological, sustainable and environmental based events in our town and area). Allan will have the login mask taken down so plugins can be added to website and the committee can review it when the draft is complete and make suggestions for edits, additions and changes. We will use MailChimp for our mailing list and we began collecting emails at Earth Day.

IX. NEXT MEETING

1. Date/Time/Location – Wed. May. 24 / 7:30 PM / Eugene Young Environmental Education Center
2. Agenda – TBA