



SHP Meeting Notes 1/25/17

Attendees: Tina Weishaus, Irene Marx, Nicole Wines, Andy Benesch, Jim Walsh, Allan Williams, Randy Solomon, Eli Goldstein and Sofia McDermott-Hughes (special drop in: Matt Hersh)

I. SOLAR CHALLENGE

1. **Housing Authority** - Matt Hersh requested SHP provide assistance to the Housing Authority, which is interested in exploring solar on its properties. He will connect the executive director with Teri so that we can provide technical assistance with the EnergySage portal.
2. **Borough Buildings** – Jim to talk to Kathy Kovach/Dan Bianchini about registering available borough properties with rooftop space with the HPSolar.org portal.
3. **Promotion** - Teri to set up a call in early Feb. with the HP Solar subcommittee (Tina, Allan, Stacy, Hagit) to discuss options for promoting the program. Ideas:
 - o Lawn signs, posters for kiosks and key locations, handouts/Q&As
 - o Events: Earth Day, Street Fair (May), Info Sessions

II. SUSTAINABLE JERSEY RECERTIFICATION

1. **Annual recertification** – The group decided at the retreat to make recertification an annual process.
2. **Kick-off meeting 2/16** – Teri confirmed with Mayor Mittler that she will convene another meeting of borough board, committees and commissions to launch the annual recertification. Teri to provide her a letter to email out to all board chairs. Pizza will be served at 7 PM; meeting will run from 7:30 – 9 PM.
3. **Agenda** – Teri to work with Tina and Hagit to structure the meeting. Ideas:
 - o Celebrate/report on 2016 silver certification.
 - o Allow partner groups to talk about the actions they worked on and what they think they can do moving forward.
 - o Allow time for breakout discussions and cross-collaboration.

III. EV CHARGING STATION

1. **Concept** – One of the barriers to EV purchases is fear about running out of a charge. By adding to the network of stations, HP will be helping address this issue.
2. **Funding** - Tina did some research and learned that there is a waiting list for the [DEP charging station grant program](#), but the sense is the program will open up. The program only covers

type 1 and 2 charging stations, type 1 being too slow to be practical for public parking spots. The grant would cover approximately half the cost of a type 2 station, roughly \$10,000.

3. **Possible locations**

- Parking lot next to Yellow Brick Road (So. 3rd)
- HP farmers market lot – would have to be in back, toward Magnolia St to avoid market Fridays
- Raritan Avenue – more visible and convenient, but would require DOT to OK
- Stop and Shop lot – visible, but would require negotiations with the owner

4. **Next Steps**

- Jim to discuss the EV charging station idea with council at an upcoming conference committee meeting to gauge interest/support.

IV. RECYCLING / WASTE REDUCTION

1. **Business District** – SHP is interested in developing a proposal for how we might address recycling and waste reduction in the business district. Ideas include:

- Plastic bag ban/fee
- Reusable bag giveaway for downtown merchants
- Recycling receptacles for inside downtown businesses
- “Don’t forget your reusable bags” signs in Stop and Shop parking lot
- Communications – posters, signs, etc.

Next Steps:

- Tina to reach out to Rebecca Hersh at Main Street to discuss possible partnership.

2. **Recycle Coach App**

- Tina spoke with Frank Troy in DPW who indicated the app would be ready to launch in mid-February. SHP will have an opportunity to add additional information and educational resources.

3. **Food Waste**

- Nicole reported that East Brunswick launched a cooking oil recycling program.
- Jim to report back to the shared services committee to see if there is an opportunity to partner.

VII. EARTH DAY

1. **Date** – Sun. April 23 11-3 PM, Environmental Education Center
2. **Planning meeting** – Teri to pick a Thursday in February for a planning meeting. Goal is to reinforce the key projects the group is working on: solar, recycling, etc.

VI. HIGH SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

1. **Tree project** – Sofia and Eli reported that the tree-carving project will cost \$5000 and a go-fund me page should launch soon.
 - SHP to promote on its outlets.
 - Teri to connect students with borough to see if there is room for an article in the HP News’ April edition.

2. **Vampire Energy Challenge** – One of the next projects is to promote reduction of “vampire energy” consumption in the school.
3. **Earth Day** – Club to think about interactive tables to present at Earth Day on April 23.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

1. **Date/Time/Location** – Wed. Feb. 22 / 7:30 PM / Borough Hall
2. **Agenda** – Discussion about draft Work Plan for 2017 (Teri to draft) and budget.