



## Sustainable Highland Park Monthly Meeting

March 22, 2017

### Notes

**In Attendance:** Chair, Teri Jover, Allan Williams, Hagit Mano, Irene Marx, Wendy Rosen, Nicole Wines, Francisco Gomez, Sylvia Hove, Chris Satch, Randy Solomon, Tina Weishaus, HS Environmental Club Representations Eli Goldstein and Matt Schrager, and new Council Liaison Phil George (for first 30 minutes of meeting.)

### Agenda Items:

- 1) HP Solar Challenge:** Discussion of how to increase community awareness of the HPSsolar.org website and SJ's Solar Challenge which officially ends in May.

We still have money from the budget and so SHP decided to make large posters for around town and at key locations like the Code Office. **Teri will pursue.** We are also planning a demo session at Earth Day event to increase our efforts to get people to sign up. We will schedule another info session at the library after Earth Day and try to get someone who has solar panels to give personal testimony at both Earth Day and info session.

Beyond the pilot project discussion included questions of how to promote solar more generally and **Teri will find out whether we continue to have access to the Energy Sage portal.**

- 2) Earth Day:** Continued preparations for our 2017 Earth Day event. Mayor Mittler will kick off with a Healthy Kids Walk ending at the Environmental Education Center. Teri has created a spreadsheet so people can verify all groups have been invited and there are tables for them. Continuing our effort to integrate sustainability throughout the municipal commissions and departments we have invited broadly to participate. At this time, Shade Tree (will have giveaways), Environmental Commission, probably Board of Health and Native Plants, as well as the Walking/Bike Commission will be there. We are hoping that the Library will participate with book suggestions for Earth Day. The Schools are cosponsoring and will have tables and interactive activities for children and families. The HS Env Club has been very active and has 3-4 things planned.

Frank Troy from DPW will have a table and will be introducing people to a new application for phones, Recycle Coach, which gives people up to date information on recycling in Highland Park.

Nicole also a member of Raices will be there with information on seed sharing, beehives and more including Raices' full workshop schedule for the months ahead.

There will be music organized by Sheila Shukla and food from the Grace Café. There was some discussion on how to make plates and cutlery more sustainable and recyclable.

- 3) **SJ Re-Certification:** Discussed the concept of a Sustainability Representative on each Commission and Board of the Borough as a liaison to SHP. Each SHP member would get a group of Boards and Commissions to work with so there is a back and forth flow of information. This would be a way of developing and sustaining the concept of sustainability throughout the borough infrastructure, as well as a method for yearly recertification for Sustainable Jersey.

Before Councilman George left our meeting he asked us to set a GOAL and an ASK from the Borough Council for March 28 meeting. After a discussion which included developing the above concept and broadening this to asking for DPW representation (whose workers are the most involved with SHP activities) at our meeting 3-4 times a year which would involve negotiating that in their contract. **Teri will communicate with Councilman George regarding the above.**

- 4) **Raices Ecoculture Workshops and Seed Library:** Nicole and Francisco gave a report about the series of workshops they have planned and for which they won a Parks Partner grant. The next workshop is on April 22 from 3-6 pm at the Environmental Center and will be a Seed Library Work Party. Sylvia talked briefly about the work she is doing in her home country of Zimbabwe and with Raices especially around seed saving/libraries and other community based environmental projects.
- 5) **Recycling Coach:** Members of SHP were asked to familiarize themselves with the new app Recycle Coach and determine what if anything needs to be updated before Earth Day, getting back to the committee and/or Frank Troy.
- 6) **EC Charger:** Tina checked the application for a grant for an Electric Vehicle Level 2 Charging Station and found out that it needs to be approved and actually filled out by the borough. Randy advised that Kathleen Kovach, the Director of Finance, is retiring and will not be available to help. **Tina to get in touch with Councilman George to request a resolution from the Borough and help with the application.**
- 7) **Communication:** Nicole has been working on our website and she reports that it is almost done.
- 8) **Report from H.S. Environmental Club:** Eli and Matt gave a report on their 3<sup>rd</sup> Green Challenge going on now which is about Healthy Eating. The committee has also been doing clean-ups at the Adelaide River site. Some discussion occurred about more collaboration between HS and SHP.
- 9) **New Business:** Talked about the April 29<sup>th</sup> Climate March. Allan will send out the flyer to our committee for buying bus tickets. As new people have been attending our monthly meetings Allan will make sure that new email addresses are added to our committee.

Notes respectfully submitted by Tina Weisha