



SHP Meeting Notes 6/28/17

Attendees: Tina Weishaus, Irene Marx, Hagit Mano, Allan Williams, Nicole Wines, Wendy Rosen, Councilman George.

Guests: Daniel Cohen, Collin Tomlinson (Intern), Irene Reigner, Mark Lesko, Meztli Rocio Herzog, Kira Herzog, Sylvia Hove, Susan Edmunds.

1. **High School Environmental Club** – Kira stated that the High School gardens are being maintained over the summer. Tina indicated to Kira that in Edison there is an Edison Student Sustainability organization.
2. **Plastic Bag Reduction Campaign** – Tina summarized that SHP/Borough has received a \$10,000 grant from Sustainable Jersey for a Plastic Bag Reduction Campaign. There is a sub-committee running the campaign. There have been two subcommittee meeting. She introduced Collin Tomlinson our intern for the campaign. He attends Sterling College in Vermont. Collin has generated a logo for the campaign (see Attachment). A residential questionnaire on plastic bags usage, a fact sheet, and a business questionnaire have been generated. A meeting with Stop & Shop occurred on June 5th. They have been very cooperative. They will be putting up signs saying don't forget your bag and provide free cloth bags. Members of the sub committee have begun surveying Stop & Shop customers for plastic and cloth bag use. Tina has purchased the Movie "Bag It" The first performance will be at he Library on July 7 at 7:00 PM. The movie will also be shown to children at Camp Kool.
3. **HP Solar Challenge** – The challenge will continue to September 30. Some lawn signs and posters will be purchased. A banner to be hung at one of the cross streets to Raritan Avenue is being considered if DPW can put it up.
4. **SJ Certification** –Highland Park has been certified at the Silver level by Sustainable Jersey, which expires in 2018. Teri Jover, Borough Administrator and Daniel Bianchini will take over primary responsibility for the re-certification effort. The goal is to re-certify on annual basis. Teri has negotiated with SJ that if the Borough's application will not certify us at the Silver level, we will withdraw the application. SJ will provide minimal support to the effort.

5. **Raices** – Sustainable Living Workshop have been very successful have has 20 – 30 people attend their workshops. There will be a Rain Barrel workshop on Sunday, July 2 at the Environmental Education Center at 1:00 PM.
6. **Website/Content** – The Residential Questionnaire for the Plastic Bag Reduction campaign is on the SustainableHighlandPark.org website. Over a 100 people have already responded to the questionnaire. Tina thanked Nicole for all the work she has put into the website. Tina indicated that Meeting Notes and the current agenda are on the website and members should check it out,
7. **Outreach** – Arts in the Park, Visibility, T-shirts. SHP has signed up for a table for Arts in the Park, 24 September 24. We will need to have volunteers to man the table.
8. **Sustainable Delegates** – The Borough passed a resolution for the Borough to support the goals of the Paris Climate Accords. Councilman George discussed that the Council will be passing a resolution on July 11 indicating that the Borough departments and offices will as policy include sustainability issue as a general policy and that individuals in various departments will be defined as delegates who will be responsible for sustainable issues and will communicate with SHP. It was suggested that the resolution mention boards and commission who will also be participating, Councilman George also mention that the Borough is considering the Upper Meadows (future site of PSE&G solar farm) as a resilience zone.
9. **Recycle Coach** – Tina recommended that all members and guests check out the Recycle Coach smart phone app. Google Recycle Coach and you will find where you can download the app for iPhone or Android.
10. **Summary Sustainability Summit** – Tina Weishaus attended the Sustainable Jersey Sustainably Summit conference and attended several workshops. The grant workshop was particularly useful. Several issues concerning the Plastic bag Reduction Campaign have been clarified. Tina reported on an Ocean County Initiative 2Good2Waste, where Ocean County residents can sell item worth up to \$99 at periodic events. Only Ocean County residents can sell at these events.
11. **New Business** – Susan Edmunds, a Borough resident, who is taking part in the Rutgers Stewardship program, has identified a problem at the end of Grant Avenue adjacent to the Mill Brook. She indicated that a wall at the end of the street is falling apart and will need to be replaced. She also indicated that in the winter, this section of Grant is highly salted because of the steep grade. The salt winds up in the Mill Brook. She indicated that she would like to see a rain garden replace the current crumbling wall. She indicates that grants are available through Rutgers. She asked how one would go about

getting an evaluation of the concept. Councilman George indicated that as the road and wall are Borough property the Borough would have to be involved. He indicated that the Borough would have DPW and CME have a look at the wall. He suggested that Susan put together a proposal and forward to SHP and then the Borough could evaluate. ACTION: Allan to forward proposal to SHP membership when available.

Attachment A



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