



## **SHP Meeting Notes - 7/26/17**

**Attendees:** Tina Weishaus, Irene Marx, Wendy Rosen, Andy Benesch, Randy Solomon, Nicole Wines, Hagit Mano, Councilman Phil George

**Guests:** Kira Herzog, Mark Lesko, Claudia Farber, Daniel Cohen, Rocio Herzog, Colin Tomlinson,

### **1. High School Environmental Club**

- High School will be showing Bag It in every Environmental Science Class.
- Environmental Club already has plans for the fall but will be happy to support and promote the plastic bag campaign as well.
- Gardens are being maintained.

### **2. Plastic Bag Reduction Campaign**

- Campaign is moving along.
- Film screening at Pinos had 30 attendees.
- Bags —> Tina showed sample bags both of the Chico polyester bags and the Cotton tote bags; these will be ordered and available soon.
- Rite-Aid has gotten managerial permission to participate in the campaign. They use 350,000 plastic bags per year.
- Committee is collecting used t-shirts for arts in the park t-shirt upcycling activity.
- Spanish and Russian versions of the survey are available on paper. A note will be made on the website to indicate this.
- Need people to help at events.

### **3. Solar Challenge**

- The Solar Challenge announcement on the website will remain open through the end of September. Lawn signs are now located throughout town, thanks to Allan putting them up before leaving for his vacation.

### **4. Raíces - Sustainable Living Workshop Series**

- The first part of the series concluded on July 2 with a rain barrel workshop. This part of the series had over 100 workshop participants in 6 separate workshop programs. There will be an additional 3-4 programs offered in the fall, dates TBA.

### **5. SHP Website/Content**

- Suggestion to feature HPTV broadcasts of Bag It. (note: website has been updated to reflect this).
- All SHP members are invited and welcome to suggest content and write updates and blurbs for the blog.

6. **Outreach - Arts In the Park, Visibility, T-shirts**
  - Tina noted that all of this is moving forward and is mostly being worked on by the Plastic Bag Reduction Campaign subcommittee.
7. **Sustainable Delegates**
  - The Borough Council has approved sustainable Delegates.
  - Hope to have a list of itemized delegates by the August meeting of SHP.
8. **Water Bottle Refilling Station - Library**
  - The library is not opposed to a water bottle refilling station, but has no money in their budget to pursue this idea. SHP can help by finding grants that would cover costs. Councilman George suggested talking to Dan in Borough Hall about grants as he has been compiling grant information for the Borough.
9. **Environmental Education Center Redevelopment Presentation - Colin Tomlinson**
  - Colin Tomlinson presented ideas for redevelopment/enhancement of the EEC including an earthbag constructed addition with learning center and greenhouse, touch tank aquarium, solar panels and more.
10. **Green Infrastructure - Susan Edmund's Document**
  - Susan proposed to create a rain garden/pocket park at the end of Grant.
  - There are property and environmental impacts that must be taken into consideration, as this location is part of the watershed.
  - DEP approval must be given for any work done at this location.
  - Neighboring properties are all privately owned.
  - The issue is something that needs to be addressed. Councilman George will attempt to get something on the Borough Council agenda for the August meeting.
11. **SHP Borough Budget - \$200 unallocated - Ideas on how to spend**
  - Nicole presented idea for additional workshop(s) in the Raíces EcoCulture Sustainable Living Workshop Series which is co-sponsored by SHP. Two workshop ideas were: Herbal Healing for Seniors taught by herbalist Angela Lugo to be held at the Senior Center and a workshop on the conditions of the Raritan River. All workshops in the series have allocated \$200 as a stipend for each workshop presenter. Herbal Healing workshop for seniors' idea was well received by committee, but no final decision was made on whether to allocate the funds to sponsor this program. Councilman George requested not doing any workshops or programs addressing the Raritan River as the Borough has their own pending campaign/programs that will be upcoming in the next few years.
  - Wendy Rosen presented idea for additional work on the importance of bees and pollinators and volunteered to create some handout material. She suggested that some of the funds could go towards the purchase of perennial pollinator friendly plants to be given out at upcoming events that SHP will be participating in like Arts in the Park. The idea was well received but no final decision was made on this.

**12. Recycle Coach**

- Direct links have been added to the website.
- All members of SHP are encouraged to download this app and explore it to learn its functions and potentially make suggestions on features.

**13. Council Items**

- This was addressed in other agenda items 7 & 10.

**14. New Business**

- RU Ecological Preserve Development. Dan spoke about the proposed development within the borders of the RU Ecological Preserve and voiced concerns about loss of habitat, trees, etc. Councilman George spoke to the idea that universities do not need approval from municipal planning/zoning boards for development and this is a concern as part of the Ecological Preserve is located within the Borough of Highland Park.
- The Essex County Sustainable Jersey Hub is moving forward on energy aggregation buy. Randy will forward more information to the group.