



SHP Meeting Notes - 12/20/2017

Attendees: Tina Weishaus, Andy Benesch, Nicole Wines

Guests: Daniel Cohen, Irene Riegner, Anne Singer, Paul Sauers

1. Report from Borough

Tina reported back from monthly meeting with Teri Jover, HP Business Manager:

Energy Audits

- Waiting for approval on a grant for energy audits of borough buildings

Sustainable Jersey Certification

- We are due to be recertified in two years. Deadline is June 2019.
- We are currently certified at Silver Level.
- Sustainability delegates - will happen in beginning of 2018, after borough's reorganization meeting.

Buck Woods

- Borough has approved a tree removal permit to take down 70 trees in order to test the soil contamination to determine the level of contamination, what type of contamination it is, and who is responsible for remediation.
- This could be a step in pushing for the development of that land.

Highland Park Solar Farm

- PSEG has an agreement with Highland Park borough, for a solar microgrid. It would provide funds for the borough through a land lease and emergency backup power for some Borough buildings
- DEP halted process until concrete is removed because of Legacy Landfill Legislation which requires removal of concrete before solar can be installed.
- If cleanup is not complete by February, PSEG will find a different location for the project.
- Teri is trying to get assistance for HP DPW from other townships with heavier machinery.

Highland Park Solar Microgrid

- HP has agreement with PSEG for a backup solar microgrid for some essential buildings/ services and an emergency shelter

***For more info: http://www.nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/announcements/pdf/20170927_highland_pr.pdf

Energy Aggregation

- HP does not have a consortium to do this, but has been told it is now economically feasible to attempt it on its own.

- Residents can choose to opt out and go back to default (PSEG)
- 2 benefits: helps with pricing (consolidated negotiations of rate) and better ratio of green energy.

***For more info: <http://www.sustainablejersey.com/fileadmin/media/>

[Actions_and_Certification/Actions/Energy/GEA_Study_Report_Final_041014.pdf](#)

Email Outreach

- Borough is thinking about developing a policy to have email blasts approved by an appointed borough employee.

Proposed Bike Path Connecting Donaldson to Johnson

- Possible, but there is still research being done. There are legal issues due to the route passing through private property.

Solar Energy Grant

- Have about \$2,500 left from grant, and we were given permission to keep it as long as we use it to develop an initiative that deals with solar energy.

Recycling Bins

- We still have funds left to purchase recycling bins.

2. Raíces

- Herbal Workshop - SHP sponsored herbal workshop had 20 participants.
- Herbal Circle - Monthly herbal circle has 16 members
- Sustainability Series - Last program will be held on December 28 at 6PM at the EEC. This will be an envisioning session to plan for “going greener in 2018”.
- PR Disaster Relief Trip - Focus on rebuilding sustainably, renewably and resiliently. Here is a link to the trip’s goals and donation page, updates will be added to the Raíces blog soon: www.raicesculturalcenter.org/donations/prrelief

3. Plastic Bag Campaign

- There was a T-shirt bag making workshop at school.
- It has been clear through our campaign that legislation is what is needed to make a difference.
- Piece of state legislation was introduced in 2014, but has been dead since it was introduced. May change under Murphy but wouldn’t be one of his priorities.
- **Andy and Tina are looking at ordinances to write a report for Borough making recommendations on what to put into any potential ordinance or push for ordinance on state-wide level. If anyone else is interested in working on this, please reach out to Tina.**
- Starting a weekly raffle at Stop & Shop for customers who use reusable bags.
- Getting positive feedback on lawn signs. Signs are now on Raritan Ave. Irene suggested putting them in the neighborhoods as well, where people live.
- We had hundreds of bags left to give out.
- Potentially can canvass outside Stop & Shop to talk to people about reusable bags and hand out our bags.
- \$4,000 left in \$10,000 grant which has to be used by May. Potential uses: reorder lawn signs, order more bags, open to other ideas.

4. Earth Day Subcommittee

- April 22 (Sunday) - This is actually Earth Day.
- Need volunteers for a subcommittee.

5. SHP Website

- **Nicole will add 2018 meetings to calendar.**
- **If anyone wants to add content to the site, send it to Tina.**

6. Retreat

Will be held January 21 at Hagit's house, time TBA.