



The Borough of Highland Park
Sustainable Highland Park
County of **Middlesex, New Jersey**
P.O. Box 1330
HIGHLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY
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Date: April 30, 2021,

Subject: Sustainable Highland Park Minutes, April 28, via Zoom

Attending Members:

Tina Weishaus, Chair Allan Williams, Vice Chair, Irene Chan Marx, Wendy Rosen,
Paul Sauers, Olivia Parker

Council Liaison: Phil George

Guests: Charlie Kratovil, Heidi Yeh. Ellen Whitt

- 1) Butterfly weed project-Irene will give away 400 butterfly weed plants at the Farmers Market on April 30, May 7, and possibly May 14 if there are any leftover plants. This is an opportunity for SHP to engage the public about SHP and recruit new members.
- 2) Government Energy Aggregation Ordinance-Tina sent a copy of the proposed revised ordinance that included yearly benchmarks towards increasing the amount of renewables and cost savings. After discussion, members voted to approve of these amendments with other changes to be made. Members who vote affirmative are: Allan, Tina, Irene, Paul and Olivia. **Action:** Tina to make the requested changes and re-send out to SHP membership.
- 3) Plastic bag ban-Tina reported that in May 2022, the state will institute a ban on paper and plastic bags. **Action:** Tina will approach store in Highland Park to alert them of the upcoming statewide ban.
- 4) Everyone's Farm-Wendy expressed need to publicize EF to reach more HP residents. Planned initiatives include: a table at the Farmers Market to facilitate seed/seedling swapping, demos; planting edibles throughout town; front yard gardening to grow food. Irene offered to share her table at the Farmers Market with EF on April 30 and May 7.
- 5) High School Environmental Club-Olivia reported that club meetings have been held outside. Members have been working on the HS gardens, erecting plastic netting to keep critters out and installing art pieces outdoors to encourage recycling rather than to litter. The Environmental club will select

a new SHP liaison soon.

- 6) Virtual Earth Day-Allan reported SHP recycled/reused the Virtual Earth Day activities from last year. There was a virtual concert and a Girl Scout had a PowerPoint presentation. One person did the Earth Day challenge.
- 7) Social Media-there is a need to increase SHP's presence on social media, ie, SHP website, Facebook and Twitter. Seeking people who can make posts, maintain the website and outreach.
- 8) Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership-the borough has a memorandum of understanding with LRWP to educate about water quality, stormwater, drainage and management at HP schools.
- 9) Redevelopment Plan-there were concerns about the proposal to build several 4 story buildings and a parking deck downtown. Is this sustainable building? Phil expressed a need to hard wire charging stations and install solar panels in case of storms.
- 10) Home energy audit-Tina brought up an education campaign to promote energy efficiency (address climate change), and sustainability. Goal is to give people tools to improve energy efficiency at home.
- 11) Diversity Survey-there was a discussion on the need for diverse representation in the borough.
- 12) Mark Lesko had difficulty accessing the Zoom meeting. He did not speak about cleanups and group communications. **Action:** Allan to figure out the problem.