



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: June 28, 2021

Subject: Sustainable Highland Park Minutes, June 23, 2021 via Zoom

Attending Members:

Tina Weishaus-Chair, Allan Williams-Vice Chair, Irene Chan Marx, Paul Sauers, Olivia Parker, Irene Riegner

Council Liaison: Phil George

Guests: Don Stern, Ellen Whitt, Mark Lesko

- 1) High School -Olivia reported the HS Environmental Club held elections last week. Since Olivia graduated from HPHS, a new high school liaison to SHP will be announced shortly.
- 2) Everyone's Farm- Wendy met with the coordinator at the Community Center to discuss planting an herb garden. The project will involve senior citizens who will offer planting suggestions and help tend the garden. There is no new information on permission to table at the Farmers Market. Allan spoke to Javier, manager of Farmers Market, who said EF can have table space as long as there is no conflict with vendors. Irene M. made a Google spreadsheet for EF members to share and request plants, similar to Freecycle.
- 3) Community Outreach-Contact information from residents interested in SHP gathered at the Farmers Market will be included in a Google group email to receive SHP correspondence.
- 4) Cleanups-Mark reported cleanups are not active in the summer due to the hot weather. They will resume in the fall.
- 5) Government Energy Aggregation Ordinance-Tina reported the borough is finalizing the ordinance. There is an issue of minimum amount of bid, which will go out in September. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) is needed to partner with Edison on this project.
- 6) Plastic bag ban-Tina reported Highland Park's ban on plastic bags has been pushed back to August 1, 2021.

The state's plastic and paper bag ban will take effect in May 4, 2022; SHP will implement community wide education/outreach. Anyone interested in helping can contact Tina. Irene R. suggested posting information on SHP's website. Irene Riegner volunteered to work with Tina on developing a calendar for community outreach and education regarding the State Plastic Bag Ban effective next May 4, 2022.

- 7) Redevelopment-Paul attended the latest redevelopment meeting. He reported a proposal to keep S. 3rd Ave. closed off to vehicular traffic, continue to hold the farmers market at its current location, plans to redevelopment upper Raritan Ave. (area towards Edison), discussion on a public/private parking lot and creation of a bike lane on Rt. 27.
- 8) Earth Day festival-it is likely we will be able to host an in person earth day celebration in October. Allan will confirm with the borough before planning the event.
- 9) Future SHP meetings-discussion of continuing SHP meetings via Zoom and whether the borough would allow SHP to continue using its Zoom account. There was general consensus to continue meetings on Zoom. Tina is unable to attend in person meetings due to health concerns.
- 10) Ellen Whitt-Resolution to oppose the construction of a CPV gas power plant in Keasbey
Allan raised concerns about the accuracy of data supporting quantities of pollutants with this project.
Action: Allan to send minor comments to Ellen for revision of the resolution.
Members voted in favor of the resolution-Tina, Irene M., Irene R., Olivia, Paul; Wendy Rosen (voted by email).
Abstention-Allan
Action: Phil will bring forward the resolution at the next committee meeting then will be brought to the borough council.
- 11) Don Stern-Fossil Fuel Divestment Resolution-Proposal for the borough to request the state divest pension funds from fossil fuel funds.
Members voted in favor of the resolution-Tina, Allan, Irene M., Irene R., Olivia, Paul; Wendy Rosen (voted by email).
Action: Phil will bring forward the resolution at the next committee meeting then will be brought to the borough council.
- 12) Cannabis Ordinance-Allan discussed the borough's ability to regulate governance of cannabis establishments through zoning ordinance. The deadline is August 22, 2021.