



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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Subject: Sustainable Highland Park Minutes, August 25, 2021 via Zoom

Attending Members:

Tina Weishaus-Chair, Allan Williams-Vice Chair, Irene Chan Marx, Paul Sauers, Irene Riegner, Wendy Rosen

Council Liaison: Phil George

Guests: Mark Lesko, Rose DeLorenzo

- 1) Plastic bag ban-the borough reinstated the plastic bag ban on August 1, 2021. SHP will implement education on the state's plastic and paper bag ban that will take place May 2022.

Action: Tina will contact Rebecca Hersh from Main Street HP to educate the public on the state law.

- 2) Resolutions update:
Keasbey Woodbridge power plant resolution-Phil will bring up the resolution at the next Public Works committee meeting.

Divestment resolution-Phil suggested seeking feedback from the Environmental Commission and Health Human Services Committee.

- 3) Government Energy Aggregation project-the borough intended to partner with Edison but Edison went ahead with its own plan and invited Highland Park to join. The borough will discuss with their lawyer regarding GEA contract with Edison.
- 4) Communications-Tina continues to update the SHP website. We should all look at the website and offer recommendations and improvements. Content needs to be kept current. Paul has been adding content to SHP Facebook. Tina is responsible for the SHP Twitter account. The goal is to make the website and social media more interesting in order to draw more members and ideas.

There was a suggestion of issuing 2-3 SHP newsletters per year.

- 5) Cleanups-Mark reported there will be cleanup at various locations hosted by Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership on September 19, 2021. More information will be posted on the LRWP website.
- 6) Earth Day Festival-Due to the current Covid variant and increasing cases, in person and online activities are postponed until further notice.
- 7) Raised beds at the HP Environmental Education Center-discussion about the feasibility of building garden plots for residents, similar to the community garden at Donaldson Park. At a minimum, this initiative needs soil testing and approval from the Environmental Commission.
- 8) Everyone's Farm-Wendy reported an area at the Community Center has been identified to house an herb garden for next year. Seniors will plan the garden and EF will assist.

Zone 6 teen center-there is a grant opportunity to fund a garden at the teen center. Everyone's Farm can assist.

Wendy spoke about growing food everywhere, even in urban spaces, including container gardening. Tina suggested that we do a virtual community event to talk about growing food everywhere as we prepare for the next season.