



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 Meeting Minutes, October 27, 2021 via Zoom

Attending Members:

Tina Weishaus-Chair, Irene Chan Marx, Paul Sauers, Irene Riegner

Council Liaison: Phil George

Guests: Mark Lesko, Rose DeLorenzo, Jack Burr

Guest Speaker: Joseph Fekete-Southside Cleanup

- 1) HP Southside Cleanup co-founder, Joseph Fekete, presented his group's efforts to remove litter from the southside of Raritan Ave. and other streets. The issue of excessive trash stems from not enough garbage receptacles, too few garbage pick-ups and stores' failure to maintain their property. The problem areas include Rite Aid, the Farmers Market, Park Deli and S. 3rd Ave. The group meets biweekly on Sundays from 9-11 am to cleanup targeted areas. All are welcome to participate. You can contact them at southsidecleanup@gmail.com

Action: SHP will collaborate with SS Clean Up on outreach and education regarding litter in town.

- 2) Plastic straws - Straws will not be given out with drinks, must be requested as of Nov 4 as per NJ State Plastic Law. SHP will give away stainless steel metal straws at the Farmers Market on Nov. 12 as part of education on the state's plastic law. Full law on bags will go into effect on May 4, 2022. SHP will share a table with Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership who will educate on storm water management. Help is needed to staff the table. Members will get back to Irene Marx who is organizing table. FM's stays open through December and we can continue to table and give away straws and information if we have people to staff the SHP table at the FM.
- 3) Budget-discussion on spending the remainder of approximately \$800 in funding for 2021. We agreed to purchase reusable bags (nylon, cotton, net),

\$100-\$150 for supplies for cleanups (gloves, bags, etc.), and \$150 for environmental movie, the Sacrifice Zone., plus \$50 for an honorarium for speaker.

Action: Mark will provide a list with prices of cleanup supplies.
Tina, Irene M and Irene R will research bags to purchase.
Tina will rent the film and encumber the money from SHP budget.

- 4) Everyone's Farm-the first backyard garden tour was held on Oct. 17 at the home of Dan Waite on Lawrence Ave. The event was successful and well received.
We will table the garden grant for Zone 6 teen center due lack of time to apply. There are a number of large planters on location for EF to assist students in planting in the spring.
- 5) HP Plastic bag ban - there is a need to educate the public and HP retailers on the borough's plastic bag ban and the upcoming NJ State Law.
Action: HP stores need a check on compliance including the Dollar Store (Dollar City) and Glatt 27 and some restaurants.
- 6) Energy Aggregation program-Tina reported the ordinance was rewritten and passed and will probably go out to bid in February 2022. It is an opt out program. Irene R suggested SHP provide information about this program at the Farmers Market.
- 7) Resolutions' update: Both the Opposition to Keasbey, Woodbridge Power Plant and the Fossil Fuel Divestment resolutions passed unanimously by the borough council. Edison also passed a resolution opposing the Keasbey power plant.
- 8) BPU Community Solar Project- if the borough is selected, low and middle income and renters will be able to participate in purchasing solar energy.
- 9) Guest, Jack Burr, offered to give a demonstration of electric leaf blowers using electric batteries at the Farmers Market.

Irene R and Mark expressed using the Farmers Market as outreach for SHP's initiatives including energy aggregation, the state's straw and bag ban and storm water management.