



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, January 26, 2022 via Zoom

Attending Members:

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

Guests: Rose DeLorenzo, Mark Lesko, Claudia Farber, Chris Perez, Jack Burr, Joyce Orenstein

- 1) Viewing of The Sacrifice Zone – the event took place on Sunday and was very successful. About 65 registered and 40 people viewed the film and all who registered got a follow-up action email afterwards. A discussion after the viewing was led by Christian Rodriguez, an Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC) organizer. The ICC is featured in the film which documents environmental racism and ICC's fight for justice.
- 2) Upcoming film series- March 13 next film event. Claudia and Irene Marx will work on it together. With Tina The films being considered are short family friendly films. Publicity will be sent out through the schools and to the community about 3 weeks early.
- 3) Straws- Irene Riegner reported on visiting about 20 businesses in town about the new NJ law on “straws upon request only”. She, Mark Lesko and Paul Sauers went out to these businesses and also told them about upcoming bag ban starting on May 4th.
- 4) Sustainable Jersey grant – Chris met with the library director regarding a grant opportunity for design, installation and signage of a rain garden at the HP library. It was agreed that the grant will move forward. Rose suggested an adopt a rain garden program in which individuals or families can care for a rain garden in town.
- 5) Green Amendment - Tina drafted a proposed HP Borough Council Resolution calling on the NJ Legislature to pass Green Amendment to the NJ Constitution. SHP members are in favor of the amendment and will vote at an upcoming meeting. It appears that Phil George, our Council liaison, has

moved this amendment to the Public Works and Utilities Committee, however Phil was not present at our meeting to confirm..

- 6) Curbside composting- the Board of Health is looking into a pilot project for compost pickup. Residents who wish to participate will bear the cost of this service.
Jack offered to take vegetable compost from up to 20 families to feed his chickens.
- 7) Eco grief/eco anxiety workshop- a proposal for a workshop dealing with loss of the natural environment offered by an East Brunswick church. Tina will provide more details, including any costs to attend.
- 8) Earth Day planning- Rose reported the January 12 Earth Day committee meeting generated many ideas and suggestions, including information/activities on rain gardens, flooding mitigation and microplastics; record residents' experience of damage caused by Hurricane Ida; schools' participation; inviting various organizations to exhibit. We will be meeting on Tuesday, February 1 at 7:30, open to the public. Zoom link is on HP Boro calendar. Meetings will be every 2 weeks, probably.
- 9) Cleanups-Mark suggested 2 fall and 2 spring cleanups. Possible cleanup the morning for the Earth Day Festival. Tina will check with Rebecca from Main St. about the 5K race this year.