



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, August 24, 2022 via Zoom

Attending Members: Tina Weishaus-Chair, Irene Chan Marx, Rose DeLorenzo, Paul Sauers, Claudia Farber, Wendy Rosen

Guests: Mark Lesko, Chris Perez, Jack Burr, Meli Pihura, Nadia Kianvashrad

Council Liaison: Phil George

- 1) Adopt a Drain program – 30 volunteers signed up to care for 75 drains. There are approximately 750 drains in Highland Park, including county and state drains. Irene and Chris are working on inputting drain numbers and intersections on the google map.

There was discussion about creating a log to certify that the volunteers are cleaning the drains.

10 people signed up at National Night Out, most are from Cedar Lane, but no one actually signed up through the website. Need to work on outreach for the program.

- 2) Arts in the Park – on Sunday Sept. 11. We need people to staff the table to recruit storm drain volunteers, give away reusable bags, etc. Rose, Mark and Paul volunteered. Tina will fill out the form for a table.
- 3) Book discussion – HP librarian suggested Warmth by Daniel Sherrill but Tina recommended Nature's Best Hope by Doug Tallamy as a more appropriate option, in sync with the work that SHP is doing. Other book recommendations are welcomed.
- 4) Gas-powered leaf blowers – Tina, together with Diane Heimlich from the Board of Health and Allan Williams from the Environmental Commission will meet with Quiet Communities at 10:30 Aug. 30 to address the issues. Anyone is welcome to join the meeting.
- 5) Everyone's Farm – meetings not occurring this year due to Wendy's obligations and a decreased interest in the format. However, much that SHP is talking about is connected with the principles of EF. Sheree Neese-Todd will be collaborating with Wendy on new outreach and approaches.

- 6) Phil reported that the county is not in favor of hosting a composting site on county property due to the permitting expense from DEP. The Council will vote on a water restriction resolution on Sept. 6 due to ongoing drought conditions.
- 7) Environmental Film Series – suggestions are Kiss the Ground or a shorter NJ film: "Wild in the Garden" for the fall.
- 8) Opposition to power plants – Tina reported rallies and activism work to oppose adding more power plants in Middlesex County. There was a well-attended rally on Wednesday August 17 against the Keasbey power plant in Woodbridge. Highland Park is one of the neighboring towns which has passed a resolution opposing a second proposed gas power plant in Keasbey.
- 9) Cleanups-Mark reported there are no scheduled cleanups but would like to set up some on Saturday and/or Sunday at the old Karsey Park and the river bank. He will create a website for his organization to include cleanup information. Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership has scheduled cleanups in Green Brook on Sept. 17 and Donaldson Park on Nov. 19. SHP will publicize any and all clean-ups in the surrounding area.