



## ***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, July 27, 2022 via Zoom

**Attending Members:** Tina Weishaus-Chair, Irene Chan Marx, Rose DeLorenzo, Wendy Rosen

**Guests:** Mark Lesko, Chris Perez, Jack Burr, Tami Sharma, Sheree Neese-Todd

- 1) Adopt a Drain program – 22 volunteers signed up. There are approximately 750 drains in Highland Park. SHP will table at National Night Out at Irving School on Aug. 9 from 6-9 pm where storm drain volunteers can be recruited. Project off to a good start.  
**Action Item: We need volunteers to staff the table.**
  
- 2) Composting - A master gardener from Rutgers Cooperative Extension talked about backyard composting on July 5. It was a good turnout with participants asking many questions. Green Bucket canceled their presentation. No update on composting options from Phil who is not at the meeting. SHP will consider hosting a composting workshop in the fall.
  
- 3) Gas powered leaf blowers – due to noise, health and pollution concerns, SHP will work with the Board of Health and other borough organizations to ban/limit its use. We can connect this issue to lawn maintenance, native plantings and rain gardens.  
**Action Item: Set up meeting with Board of Health to discuss initial steps.**
  
- 4) Everyone's Farm – Wendy reported on EF's mission statement, goals and action steps. There is discussion on sharing/trading vegetables. Assistance in running this group is needed.  
**Action Item: Sheree will connect with Wendy to talk about ways forward.**
  
- 5) Environmental Film Series – We discussed showing “Kiss the Ground” in the fall. It is on Netflix and can be shown for educational purposes.  
**Action Item: Have a subcommittee film meeting to set up fall schedule of films.**

- 6) Cleanups-Mark's organization, Highland Park Ecology and Environmental group won the Park Partners grant of \$2,000 to purchase cleanup supplies. There's a need to recruit more people for the cleanups. The supplies can be shared with other groups including LRWP, Southside Cleanup. Mark suggests a monthly cleanup in different parts of town.  
**Action Item: A schedule to be made. A staff person is needed to assist Mark for clean-ups.**
- 7) Book Club – a suggestion was made for an environmental book club.  
**Action Item: Tina will go to library and discuss a book suggestion with the reference library.**
- 8) Chris Perez and Mark Lesko will be approved as SHP members at the next meeting.