



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, September 28, 2022 via Zoom

Attending Members: Tina Weishaus-Chair, Irene Chan Marx, Paul Sauers, Claudia Farber, Wendy Rosen, Mark Lesko, Irene Riegner

Guests: Jack Burr, Meli Shiu, Nadia Kianvashrad, Sheree Neese-Todd, Karen Ford

High School Liaison: Vaibhav Shetty

- 1) Wildflower Project – Guest Karen Ford spoke about implementing education and action on converting lawns to wildflower gardens to benefit pollinators and the soil. Other ideas included planting wildflowers in open spaces and sharing garden spaces. There is a Growing Native Plants From Seed class on Nov. 1 offered by the Rutgers Cooperative Extension at the Earth Center.

This ties in to our Everyone’s Farm (EF) overriding concept of turning lawns into gardens, vegetable or flower gardens. We are talking about ways to do the outreach to the community and start educating residents.

- 2) HS Environmental Club – Vaibhav reported there are 70 students in the club. Some will participate in the cleanup on Oct. 1. There is interest in the wildflower project. The new advisor is Mr. James Mokracek. We will meet with Vaibhav and advisor to begin working together.
- 3) Cleanups - Mark reported his website, HPEEG.com has information on cleanup dates for the rest of the year. The October 1 cleanup is on Main Street (Raritan Ave) and there is a need for someone to staff the table to direct late comers. He will use up the grant funding by ordering more supplies by end of year.
- 4) Sustainable Jersey for Schools Grant – Meli intends to apply for a grant for a robotic system for indoor gardening with a separate watering system that runs on solar power or power supply. The kit includes software and tech support. Once set up, the system is self-perpetuating. The project

aims to involve Environmental and Robotics Club members. The next step is to meet with the HS principal.

- 5) SHP website – A call out to someone to help maintain it. There was a suggestion to add content/run articles monthly on relevant topics, including permeable vs impervious surfaces.
- 6) Farmers Market – SHP will table at the farmers market this Friday for outreach on the library's seed catalog, storm drain sign ups and recruiting new members. We can table for the rest of the season if there are enough volunteers to staff the table. Good for SHP visibility in the borough. More residents seem tuned in to sustainability and it is good to know what people are doing on their own.
- 7) Adopt-a-Drain going well. We continue to get new volunteers. We have about 100 (of 700) storm drains maintained by residents at present. We need to spend the remaining budget on items like rakes, gloves by end of year.