



## ***The Borough of Highland Park***

Sustainable Highland Park

*County of Middlesex, New Jersey*

P.O. Box 1330

HIGHLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY

TEL. (732) 572-3400 FAX (732) 732-6006

Subject: Sustainable Highland Park Meeting Minutes, October 26, 2022 via Zoom

Attending Members: Tina Weishaus-Chair, Irene Chan Marx, Paul Sauers, Rose DeLorenzo, Mark Lesko, Chris Perez

Guests: Sheree Neese-Todd, Karen Ford, Ann-Sheryl White, Danielle Cadet, David Weintraub (Edison Environmental Commission and Beautiful Edison)

1) HS Environmental Club – Irene and Tina met with HS Environmental Club advisor, Mr. Mokracek. He reported there are science outdoor days that include maintenance of the rain garden. He expressed interest in assisting with SJS certification. Mr. Mokracek asked to meet with SHP on a regular basis throughout the school year. SHP agreed to help him as best we could.

2) Adopt a Drain program – There are approximately 40 volunteers covering about 100 drains. Areas of no or low coverage are in the triangle area and on the south side near Edison. There will be outreach at the Nov. 5 Molimock-Graff (previously Karsey) Park cleanup. Tina will inquire about whether unspent funds Adopt a Drain can carry over to next year.

3) Cleanups - Mark put together a schedule of cleanups in his website, HPEEG.com and is also at SustainableHighlandPark.org. The last cleanup at the trail parallel to S. Adelaide Ave. had 26 participants and yielded 261 pounds of trash. Volunteer service group, ASEZWAO (North Brunswick chapter), will assist with the Nov. 20 cleanup.

4) Sustainable Jersey for Schools Grant – Meli and Irene will meet with the HS principal to discuss the grants. Meli completed drafts of 3 grants and they were sent to the principal for review.

5) Farmers Market – SHP continues to table at the Farmers Market on Fridays for outreach on the library's seed catalog, storm drain sign ups, cleanups, collecting seeds and highlighting native plants. There will be workshop on Growing Native Plants from Seeds. More info to follow.

6) Leaf blowers – Tina spoke to Edison and New Brunswick Environmental Commissions regarding educating our communities on the dangers of leaf blowers and yard equipment from noise levels and air pollution.

The HP DPW will convert gas-powered lawn equipment (lawn mowers, trimmers, weed wackers, leaf blowers, etc.) to electric within the next few years. There will be an education plan for residents. SHP will collaborate with New Brunswick to put together literature on native plants, lawn care and leaf blowers.

7) Guest David Weintraub from Beautiful Edison and Edison Environmental Commission attended this meeting to find out about SHP and we will collaborate on an upcoming cleanup. He reported there will be a composting presentation sponsored by Edison Sustainable Jersey Green Team and Edison Community Garden Initiative on Nov. 2.