



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, February 22, 2023 via Zoom

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

Guest: Sheree Neese-Todd, Jack Burr, Theo Shiffman, Amy Livingston

Council Liaison: Matt Hersh attending

- 1) HS Eco Club – Theo reported the club will participate in Irving school's Earth Day event as well as SHP's Earth Day festival.
- 2) Native Plants presentation at the library – 7-8:30 pm, April 10. A partnership between SHP and the library. A master gardener from Rutgers Cooperative Extension will be the speaker with a Q & A. A planting activity will follow. Hybrid meeting will be attempted.
- 3) Earth Day – the subcommittee met 2 weeks ago. It was decided the location of Earth Day will be at the HP Street Fair on May 7. Irene R. suggested a table on spotted lantern flies' education. She also suggested inviting an organization to offer effective ways to water lawns/trees/shrubs. We will use the Environmental Education Center for other programming.
- 4) Cleanups – Mark reported there are 2 scheduled cleanups per month: 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday of each month. Mark presented a spreadsheet of interest to those who want to see the effects of regular clean-ups
- 5) Film Series – Claudia will look into. Sheree suggested showing a film outdoors at Main Street HP.
- 6) Borough update – Matt Hersh, new council liaison to SHP, reported there will be a public forum regarding the closing of Stop and Shop. The borough is working with the property owner to make sure the building is suitable for prospective tenants.

- 7) Farmers Market – opens April 1. SHP will need people to staff a table and bring the library's seed catalog. Looking for someone to schedule and organize weekly staffing.
- 8) SHP will apply for a Park Partners grant to buy native plants to give away. Application is due March 6. Irene M. will work on it for submission.
- 9) SHP is looking into redevelopment of Stop and Shop and the issue of impervious surfaces and building for sustainability. Will work with Main Street.
- 10) Update of Woodbridge power plant – protests at Woodbridge. Highland Park was an early opposer of the power plant because it is a fracked gas plant to be located in Keasbey, an already overburdened community, next to the existing one. Will make this site one of most polluting, (air and climate wise) in the State.

Rally was held last night at the Woodbridge Town Center. About 50 people from Woodbridge and surrounding communities came out to call on Mayor McCormac to withdraw this plant. Many went inside to attend the Council meeting and speak against the plant.

There will be a public hearing February 28 at 6 pm. To sign up contact ckratovil@fwwatch.org

- 11) Library rain garden grant – Chris reported the rain garden will be installed and there will be signage at each HP rain garden with QR code. Storm water management information is in the borough's website. Community planting day on May 6 right before Earth Day. Hoping signage will be ready for Earth Day and we can provide a self-guided tour of our rain gardens..