



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, April 26, 2023 via Zoom

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

Guest: Sheree Neese-Todd, Jack Burr, Theo Shiffman, Jyoti Singh

- 1) HS Environmental Club – Theo reported the club will have buckets to collect food in the cafeteria for composting. They are also cleaning the gardens and removing invasive species.
- 2) Farmers Market – SHP started tabling 2 weeks ago from 11-4:30. We bring the seed library and publicize SHP initiatives.
- 3) Irving Earth Day – took place on April 20. It was organized by 2 teachers. Rose and Sheree tabled for SHP and had sign-ups for Adopt-a-Drain program. Four MS students volunteered for a bird feeder activity and 1 HS student came. The event was very well attended. Other initiatives at Irving includes a sustainable book fair selling used books for \$1-\$5 and repurposing T-shirts into pillows for a PTO fundraiser.
- 4) Clean-ups – Since October 2022 Mark has created a schedule with 2 clean-ups per month: 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday of each month. There will be a clean-up on May 6, the day before the HP Street Fair/Earth Day Fest.
- 5) Mothers' Day plant giveaway – will take place on May 13 from 2-3 pm and May 14 from 10-11 am at the Environmental Education Center on River Rd. Volunteers are needed. Irene M will provide a write-up.
- 6) Borough agreement with Raices' to steward the Environmental Center – the ordinance for the borough Stewardship of the Environmental Center has problems. They had written a lease but this is not a commercial endeavor. The lease was withdrawn. Unfortunately, no borough committees, including SHP were involved in the process and could not comment on it until the evening before the Council meeting, when the agenda was published. As a result, the ordinance was tabled for now and will be reworked.

7) Earth Day Festival – due to a complaint last year about access to an interior parking area off N.3rd, the HPPD will reduce some of the street for our use. Less space and more participants but we are hoping to use part of parking area, if necessary.

We will give away seedlings and bags, publicize Adopt-a-Drain and green infrastructure / rain gardens numbering 10 in all. We will also publicize our event next weekend of native and pollinator plant giveaways from the Park Partners grant. Irene R. will have a table on Spotted Lantern Fly education with the HS Environmental Club. Colin Marx will have a vermicomposting exhibit.

Many organizations are participating in the Earth Day Fair, more than last year. All schools except Irving (which did an Earth Day event) will be participating. EVs and E-Bikes will be showcased. PSEG will offer info on the IRA and other discounts and giveaways. The MC Dept of Solid Waste will be back with us and Lowe's will be bringing electric lawn equipment. Solar Landscape will offer community solar options for the public in this area. LRWP will run a rain barrel build once again. We are hoping for good weather and a lot of contact with the public getting people thinking more about sustainability.