



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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2/28/24

Tina Weishaus, Lili, Lisa Noss, Matt Hersh, Irene M, Irene R, Anisha Yadav, Alison, Claudia Farber, Tami Sharma, Sheila Shukla, Mark Lesko, Suriya Patel, Chris Perez

Agenda:

1. Borough report - Matt Hersh
 - a. Next council meeting on Tuesday, March 5
 - b. Community energy plan w/ grant to develop the SHP website
 - c. Community solar program - Borough is going to have a RFP for a solar developer as part of the application process. We are moving ahead and hopeful that we will get approved.
2. School report - Theo needs to send
3. Communications
 - a. Mailchimp newsletter email at the end of each month w/ announcements for the coming month
 - i. Tina thinks each email should have the volunteer survey form
 - b. Tina to create a small Google group for the regulars to send updates like the meeting reminders, agenda, minutes
 - c. Any additional announcements to the whole list can be sent via Mailchimp
 - d. Claudia to add email signup link to website**
 - e. Social media - have any interesting content, articles? Send to Lisa to post on Facebook. Lisa.Kaplan1002@gmail.com
4. New committee structure
 - a. We don't need a complicated structure right now. People just want to know what they can do
 - b. People are signing up for adopt-a-drain, cleanups
5. [Volunteer survey](#)
 - a. Will be included in every monthly newsletter for now
6. Updates from Tina
 - a. Matt, Emma & Tina met w/ apt building regional manager for Orchard Gardens (near Aurora & S11th), Highland Montgomery Apartments (N. Side), and ParkTowne (2 high rises on Raritan). The manager would consider compost bins on the property. Need to follow up.
 - i. The managers want us to help involve the tenants in the community. If we share our events the managers benefit because the tenants enjoy living here & want to stay.
 - ii. Next: might have a meeting w/ Treetops
 - b. Emma from the borough is leaving at end of February. We're not sure yet who is going to take over the [Sustainable Jersey](#) certification
 - c. Farmers Market - need people to table on Fridays starting in April

- i. Are we going to have a different theme each month? It's a great idea but we might not have the capability now. Irene R said she can help with creating stuff to display on the table each month.
 - ii. Create digital brochure? QR code at table. Or QR code to website
 - d. Welcome presentation - need to create to orient new people; create training for Farmers Market
 - e. Meeting minutes - all up on the website. They should get approved at the following month's meeting. Tina will wait to hear from anyone about the minute edits (from last month) & will put up the minutes at the end of the week.
- 7. Rain gardens
 - a. Alison is interested in the rain gardens in our borough & maintenance. Wants to put together a group to help maintain the gardens.
 - b. Can be a cleanup site as well
 - c. Need a manual
 - d. Chris - in the past the tree foundation of NJ was hired by the borough to do maintenance. At least once a year the public works dept cuts back some of the vegetation on the main roads. School gardens are the responsibility of the schools. They try to maintain them at least once a year.
 - i. The one at the library is new from last year
 - ii. Mostly about weeds, invasive species control, and cleanups
 - iii. The rain gardens off of Raritan have been there over a decade. There might not be plans. Chris has the maintenance plans for the newer gardens since he worked on them. We need to create a simpler manual that shows the invasive plants in HP.
 - e. Matt - this is a conversation w/ the shade tree commission too. **Matt will connect Chris & Alison w/ Shade tree.**
 - f. Alison - the day the planters are filled on Raritan maybe we can partner with them for additional planting
- 8. [Park partners grant](#) - **deadline to apply is March 5**
 - a. Irene R. - mural - maybe for next year
 - b. Last year - we gave out over 500 plants. Maybe can store them at the DPW garage. **Irene M. to speak to DPW this week**
 - c. **Irene M & Chris to be in touch**

Didn't get to talk about:

- 9. Earth Day - save the date for Sunday, May 5
 - a. We're giving away seedlings (butterfly weed & anise hyssops) at our table
 - b. Meeting tomorrow night at 7pm
- 10. Redevelopment
- 11. Mission statement
- 12. Cleanups
- 13. Plan early spring event? Planting?
 - a. Should have a late March, early April program - Chris to help plan?

Date of next meeting: March 27th at 7:30-9pm (4th Wed. of the month)