



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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Sustainable Highland Park Meeting Minutes, May 22, 2024 via Zoom

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

Non- Members: Sheree Neese-Todd, Karen Swaine, Joe Stanio

1) Karen Swaine from the Shade Tree Advisory Committee (STAC) gave an overview of the committee: advise borough and residents on planting and maintaining street trees and answer questions. Now the focus is on planting trees in one neighborhood at a time.

2) Rain Gardens – there are plans to train a core crew of volunteers to plant and maintain rain gardens in town. The goal is for them to train other recruits. Matt will organize a meeting that includes a DPW member. Interested participants are: Matt, Chris, Irene R, Sheree, Mark and Karen.

3) Borough report - Matt reported a Redevelopment meeting will be on June 5 at the Highland Park High School, 7-9 pm. Planners will present preliminary concepts to the public. SHP will help publicize this meeting.

4) Park Partners Grant – Chris is developing a list of plants and local vendors. The plan is to have a spring native plant giveaway, a summer public planting activity and a fall plant giveaway with a presentation. The spring event will be held on June 8 and 9, 10 am-1 pm, at the Meadows Trail.

5) Earth Day Fair – it was a success despite the rain. Tina requests feedback, suggestions and comments via email.

6) Communications – Lisa reported the monthly SHP newsletter will be out at the beginning of the month. It will announce our programs and other

relevant information. Suggestion: dedicate a section of the newsletter on what sustainable/environmental projects our members are doing outside of SHP.

7) Farmers Market – There's a lack of volunteers in May but with Rose's availability in June we should be able to staff the table. We will recruit volunteers through our newsletter.

8) Grant for Website – Tina reported SHP received a \$3,000 grant to upgrade the SHP website to make it more user friendly and easier to update. Tina, Claudia and Lisa will lead this initiative.

Next meeting is Wednesday, June 26 at 7:30 pm. Zoom link is on the Borough and SHP websites.