



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

SHP August Meeting Minutes 8.28.24

Attendees: Tina Weishaus, Lisa Noss, Matt Hersh, Rose DeLorenzo, Sheree Neese Todd, KT Ho-Nguyen, Claudia Farber, Irene Marx, Lil Wei, Meli Shui, Mark Lesko

1. Introductions if any new people
 - KT
 2. Passing Meeting Minutes - Lisa
 - Same process we did last month
 - Lisa emails out minutes to all attendees within 24 hours, give 1 week for edits/approvals, then Tina adds the minutes to the SHP website
 3. Borough Report - Matt Hersh, Council liaison
 - Matt is checking about dates with Teri Jover for a meeting about the redevelopment plan
 4. Rain Garden Maintenance Report - Matt
 - Rain gardens - Mark & Chris working with Teri; Karen Swaine is working on a planting/maintenance plan. Volunteers can help build the garden.
 - Some sort of “friends of the rain gardens” group to help maintain them would be amazing and would lower the cost and increase sustainability
 - Meli says there might be an ordinance **preventing** volunteers from working on the continued maintenance of the garden with the DPW **after building rain gardens** Matt to look into
 5. Outreach to HP residents
- Past events:
- National Night Out - Thursday, August 15th at Bartle School.
 - Police event. Brought out different people than we usually see at events, but smaller turnout this year. Very hot, not as good a location. We gave out native plants, seeds, and reusable bags which people were very happy to receive.
 - Native Plant giveaways
 - Consider adding a native plant giveaway to our annual budget. People love it!
- Upcoming events:
- Arts in the Park - Sunday, September 8th on Raritan Ave, 11:30 - 4:30pm
 - Native Plant giveaways - for the residents that pre-registered for native plants, provide a window to pick up plants: **12-3pm**
 - Staffing the table commitments
 - Tina
 - Lili
 - Meli (11 till midday)
 - Matt
 - Sheree
 - Irene

- Chris
 - Share as a volunteer opportunity in our newsletter/social media, promote the plant sign-up in advance
 - We will share our table location once we have the info
 - Highland Park Town-wide Garage Sale - Saturday, September 14th & Sunday, September 15th - we will table at the farmers market lot on Saturday 11am-2pm - not Sunday
 - Do people want to do it?
 - Rose - maybe she can ask the high schoolers to volunteer
 - Give away any remaining native plants
 - Maybe sell some things & donate the money
 - What do we/others do with leftover things so they don't get thrown away in bulk pickup?
 - Matt is going to look into any messaging we can put out
 - We should share something on social media about what to do with leftover stuff (ex: post in Buy Nothing Facebook group)
 - Lisa & KT to work on a post for social media
 - Sunday, September 15 - next cleanup. Location tbd by Mark
6. Task Force formation for HP action on gas leaf blower health and environmental consequences - Tina
 - Highland Park Task Force on Leafblowers - will start publicizing at Arts in the Park
 - 3 entities as part of the taskforce: Board of Health, Environmental Commission, Sustainable Highland Park
 - A bill by Senator Smith in the Senate to ban both 2 stroke and 4 stroke leaf blowers. May move forward in the fall
 - 2 stroke leafblowers are the most used and the worst for the environment
 - We should be doing more education/outreach/advocacy about leaf blowers
 - Tina to send Lisa & KT flyer / fact sheet (still creating it) to share on social media & in newsletter
7. Website grant update - Claudia and Lisa
 - RFP (request for proposals) was sent out for a web designer/graphic designer to redo our website & logo for \$2,000 ([view here](#))
 - Deadline for applications is September 22nd. Please share!
 - Email was wrong. It is highlandparksustainable@gmail.com and the corrected rfp was shared.
8. Social Media Committee - Lisa and KT
 - KT & Lisa are working together on social media
 - Need event details further in advance so we can promote. Want to share the monthly calendar at the beginning of each month
 - Also adding new content: national environmental days; seasonal content
 - Can ask for more volunteers for tabling
 - Share about leaf blowers
9. Schools Green Team - Meli and Rose
 - Rose - see if students can help out at the townwide garage sale
 - Need to see who the liaison to SHP meetings is from the high school this year. TBD whether it's the same activist (Theo) or someone else.
 - Would love to have Mark be a liaison with the Board of Ed
 - Public schools administrators are on board with our sustainability initiatives as long as it's compatible with the school district goals, strategic development plan, and with the individual school's grant and budget limitations
 - Next step: Meli, Rose & Tina to meet to talk more about the school's sustainability activities
 - Matt - we should speak with Randy Solomon from Sustainable Jersey