



## ***The Borough of Highland Park***

Sustainable Highland Park

County of Middlesex, New Jersey

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HIGHLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY

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### **SHP Meeting Minutes 11.20.24**

Tina Weishaus, Claudia Farber, Lisa Noss, KT Ho-Nguyen, Mark Lesko, Paul Sauers, Tami S, Chris Perez, Theo Shiffman

1. Intros
  - a. What's the work of SHP in relation to the election results?
    - i. We have to work a lot harder but we have a great team
  - b. **Tina will need to step aside from a leadership role in January. Need new chairs**
2. 2025 Meeting Schedule - same, every 4th Wednesday, January -October, 3rd Wednesday in Nov & Dec due to holidays
3. SHP Budget discussion prep - Tina
  - a. Main expense in our budget is Earth Day & in particular paying the musicians
  - b. Have incorporated Adopt-a-Drain budget into SHP budget for 2025
  - c. Adding \$2k extra with pre-approval for native plant giveaway. Going to make it an annual event
  - d. Want to do more programming in 2025. In the past we have given an honorarium to certain presenters. Try to get volunteers
  - e. Only want to spend money if there is a good plan in place
  - f. Budget due by end of December. Will be a shared project
    - i. Tina will work on a draft
    - ii. Will have a 2-week period where the budget is open for comments
  - g. Can make vague categories (ex: programming, Earth Day) with the amounts
  - h. Can also work on getting grants
4. Future Planning - Tina
  - a. Need to meet about [Sustainable Jersey](#) priorities for SHP in January
    - i. *From Matt: Generally speaking, the community partnership and outreach category seems ripe for us—also, if we pursue a campaign on gas-powered landscaping equipment, we can identify how to categorize that as well. Also, green building design.*
    - ii. Mark - we can partner with the environmental commission, Shade Tree, DPW, SHP on rain gardens and get a lot more community involvement & grants, and potentially get a lot of Sustainable Jersey points
  - b. Want to develop new leadership (co-chairs) that start in the next few months
  - c. **Need to meet with Teri Jover from the boro about Sustainable Jersey**
5. High School Report - Theo

- a. Environmental club - planning for service day next Wednesday (before Thanksgiving). Environmental craft to share with biology classes
  - b. Emma Shannon (student) doing a coat drive for children's coats for Irving students
  - c. Rose & Meli starting to divide the club into committees
    - i. NJ youth climate challenge - will do a new submission
    - ii. Rain gardens / gardening
    - iii. Composting
  - d. Note from Lisa - please share anything with SHP that you'd like us to promote/feature in our newsletter or on social media
6. Clean-Ups - Mark
- a. Going really well! They went from an obscure thing to very public! KT has been taking pictures and sharing on social media, we're seeing new faces.
  - b. So much community involvement when we partnered with other programs (ex: Sustainable Sunday on 10/20). Should do more programs like that
7. Programming Report - Lisa
- a. **[Winter skill sharing series](#) - please share this form!**
    - i. KT to teach how to make kombucha
    - ii. Irene M to teach vermicomposting
    - iii. We have a few community sign-ups, looking for more
    - iv. Aiming for a once a month series in the winter. Can invite all of the teachers to share at a table at Earth Day
  - b. Zero Waste Party (Wednesday, December 18) Teen Center at 600 Benner St.
    - i. [Food & Drink Holiday Spreadsheet](#)
    - ii. Open to anyone we work with (ex: adopt a drain). KT is creating an invitation (not open to the public). It's a thank you for our volunteers
  - c. Planning a composting town hall panel - Tami
  - d. Meli is looking to have a speaker / series at the library - need to book a room in advance
  - e. Seed library organization at the library - Rose is looking into this as a volunteer project
  - f. **Need estimated program costs for the budget**
8. Earth Day Planning - Tina
- a. Save the date: Sunday, May 4, 2025
  - b. Tina needs to step back & **needs more volunteers to help run it.**  
**Maybe a committee**
    - i. Mark wants to help with Earth Day planning
    - ii. Maybe Sheila? - Tina to email her
  - c. Need to get org commitments earlier
  - d. It's our "green fair" as a Sustainable Jersey action
9. Slack - KT
- a. Using Slack for communications - the problem is that we will lose access to old messages after 90 days with the free plan.
    - i. Tina looking into a nonprofit/gov entity discount
  - b. Some people suggested Discord but we're not familiar with it
    - i. Tami to look into it
10. Website Redesign - Claudia
- a. We chose someone who is local (Rose knows them)

- b. Working with the boro on finalizing the contract
- c. We have a list of questions from the web designer for Claudia &
- d. Lisa to think about and then we will set up a meeting and start the process
- e. Goal: launch by end of March