

SUSTAINABLE HIGHLANDPARK



April 23, 2025 - Meeting Minutes

Google Meeting Information

<https://meet.google.com/ibq-yrmb-zhf>

Call Meeting to Order

Roll Call: Rose DeLorenzo, Sheree Neese-Todd, Paul Sauers, Claudia Farber, Irene Chan Marx, Theo Shiffman, Maya Hidalgo, Matt Hersh, Lisa Kaplan Noss, Mark Lesko, Irene Riegner, Laura Gould, Randy Solomon and Tami Sharma

Topics for Discussion

- **Earth Day Event:** In general, event planning is on track.
 - We have adequate coverage for SHP tables; tables and chairs ordered; Raffle tickets made;
 - Type of poster printing remains indecisive due to selection of material and will be voted on over email list of participants. Options include signs made from “coroplast” (More expensive but more durable and can be reused) or printed on poster paper and laminated (less expensive, more fragile). Suggestions included printing the ED poster and Exhibitor list on poster board since that are event specific and the “Themed” signage on coroplast. The printing content must be finished by the end of the week to guarantee delivery for ED. Rose and Lisa are working with Speed Pro to facilitate the printing.
 - Information related to the Gas Powered Leaf Blower Task Force Survey has been obtained by Tami, and incorporated into the sandwich board signage. She and Mark will speak off line to share any information needed for ED.
 - The Rain Barrel Build has been cancelled due to problems with missing rain barrels.
- **Redevelopment:** Irene R attended an informal meeting on 3/25/25 of representatives from the STAC, Environmental Commission, and SHP to discuss concerns for the pending redevelopment planning in HP.
 - General impressions reported by Matt (Irene R. had microphone issues) include best environmental practices for example, impermeable surfaces; heat islands; the need for many more trees, and funding for replacement trees; ADA guidelines. It was requested that Irene prepare a more detailed meeting summary to be circulated and discussed at another time. The importance and support of the collaboration across Boro committees and commissions was noted.

- **New Website Update:** Lisa and Claudia provided a website demonstration of the much improved SHP website. It was easily navigated and well laid out. Additionally the pages were logical and lively! Questions about the new SHP logo were discussed. The new logo had not been broadly circulated; SHP will consider the options and make a decision at the next monthly meeting. The website will launch ASAP but with the existing SHP logo until consensus regarding the logo is reached.
- **Using Discord Platform for Communicating:** Using Discord for some communications and consensus building has raised issues. The Boro policies prohibit using Discord as a platform for decision making (for example, voting) In addition, the Boro liaison, Matt Hersh, is not permitted to use the application. Discussion about the benefits of using discord and how best to incorporate it into SHP communications were discussed at length. In general, email exchanges should be used for any decision making that takes place outside of the monthly meeting. Rose, as chair, has the authority to make unilateral decisions but she is very dedicated to inclusion and consensus practices. A meeting off line will be convened once the Boro policies are clearly outlined discuss how SHP will move forward with communications, instant messaging types of platforms, and community engagement strategies.
- **Programming Updates:** Tami and the programs team have done a great deal of work to develop and implement engaging monthly programs for the community at large. The program group is ambitious and needs an efficient and streamlined approach to move SHP programs forward. The next program is scheduled for May 12 at 7:30pm and includes Lawn Conversion strategies.
- **Gas Powered Leaf Blowers:** The next activity involves the community survey as a first step to educate HP residents. Mark will be focused on engaging ED participants to complete the survey at the ED fair.
- **Sustainable Jersey Actions:** Rose reported that Jake Callahan has asked for a summary of activities over the past year (2024-2025) that will be aligned with the Green Team certification process. Rose asked for anyone with knowledge and/or interest in the certification process to join her for future meetings with Jake.
- **SHP 2025 Goal Development:** The next monthly SHP meeting will be dedicated to a discussion of SHP goals. The meeting will be hybrid, if possible, and will focus on, for example, collaborations with SWACC, outreach to apartment dwellers, sustainable practices for residents living in apartments, and Boro Rain Garden maintenance. The agenda is open to all suggestions and we should make sure to promote the next meeting on our various platforms.
- **Welcome New Attendees:** Rose welcomed Laura Gould and HS student Maya Hidalgo