

SUSTAINABLE HIGHLANDPARK



July 23, 2025 - Meeting Minutes

Hybrid Meeting - 7:30pm – 9:00pm

In Person – Boro Hall (main floor meeting room)

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

Call Meeting to Order

Roll Call - RD, LN, TS, ML, IM, SNT, LW, Hybrid- AS, CF, CP

Welcome and Opening Remarks - Everyone introduced themselves including guests Lily Wei and Allyson Schmieder. Rose briefly gave an update regarding the Boro's Sustainable Jersey recertification and the sustainability statement signed by Sheree Neese Todd as co-chair of the Earth Day Fair.

Topics for Discussion

Welcome Safe Walking and Cycling Committee - the Committee was invited, but Ms. Erin Kelly did not attend.

Committee Updates

- Programming Updates and New Idea – Tami
 - July 17th Adding Color to Your Garden with Native Plants collaboration with HPPL recap - successful collaboration with HPPL, presentation available, but need to confirm with speaker before distributing to attendees and others who request for it
 - Sheree observed that attendees seemed very interested in colorful plants and planting advice
 - Might be nice to do a workshop very similar to “Turning Your Lawn into a Food Garden”, something like “Turning Your Lawn into a Meadow (or Pollinator Garden)”
 - National Night Out – Tuesday, August 5th - 6 – 8pm
 - Discussed some logistics of supplies needed for tabling at the event,
 - We have some volunteers for setup and clean-up but need to figure out tabling slots.
 - Have some ideas for things to have at the table – reusable bags, seed library, seedlings to give away
 - Thinking of reusing the poster boards from Earth Day
 - Rain Garden Maintenance – Saturday, August 9th – 9am – South 4th, parking in Rite-Aid Lot
 - No flyer or rain date,
 - Teri from the boro has been informed about the event,
 - The event is primarily pulling weeds in preparation for the Rain Garden planting later.
 - Parkstock- July 31st, August 14th and August 28th

- There's downtime in between songs and lots of families so could be a good, laid back opportunity for tabling. Also nice to have some sort of environmentally themed activity for kids
 - In general, we are brainstorming activity ideas for future tabling events (like Arts in the Park).
 - Looking to table at either the August 14th or 28th events.
 - Have two people available on the 14th (one for photography, one for tabling) but need to establish who else can table.
 - Need to find out from boro if we need a permit or anything to set up a table at the event.
- Arts in the Park – Sunday, September 14th – 11:30 – 4:30pm
 - Looking to do a similar tabling event to last year's Arts in the Park Native Plant Giveaway.
 - Requiring pre-registration for the bigger Native Plants
 - Having some seedlings for the folks who are unable to register or from out of town
 - Also a good opportunity to do a sustainable art activity
- Repair Cafe
 - Waiting to hear back from Matt on getting approval for the registration fee
 - Next steps: checking out other NJ clinics/repair cafes, reaching out to community members who might have repair/mending skills
- Plant Swap/Plant Propagation - *New*
 - Irene M. suggested having a workshop where a speaker from our community teaches plant propagation. Attendees can learn how to propagate house plants and take the propagations home.
 - This event is renter friendly and also a good contender for a late fall/winter workshop.
- Prioritization of programming for the remainder of the year
 - The original goal was to get the ball rolling on at least one long-term initiative idea by prioritizing it for the Programming Subcommittee meetings. The Repair Cafe has already come out of the backlog.
 - The new approach is two-fold: reach out to potential volunteers who indicated interest in pending programs, and leverage the results from our internal SHP survey to dedicate time in Programming Meetings towards developing another one of the initiatives.
 - One of the ideas for the Swap Markets was to host it before the second bulk pickup of the year, and after the town-wide garage sale, but because the garage sale is much later in the year, we will wait till next year to plan something like this.
- Newsletter – Rose provided a brief reminder regarding SHP's monthly newsletter
 - Content due close of business first Wednesday of the month - Newsletter Submission Form
 - Items to note/can use assistance with:
 - Featured Photo/survey and photo request of people who received plants over the last three years

- Sustainability Spotlight - Nominate a resident, business, or organization for an upcoming Sustainability Spotlight here - KT is preparing the write-up for the August one
- Memorial Garden honoring Tina Weishaus – Sheree shared that she spoke with Ira and although interested in hearing about the plans before implementation, cannot offer to assist, though her granddaughters may want to assist with the plantings. Possible location is the overgrown garden at the Community Center that could also allow nearby residents from the senior building to assist with the maintenance. Sheree also noted that Ira, Tina's husband, mentioned that someone suggested a memorial bench in Tina's name. Once Matt Hersh returns, that will be discussed along with Sheree and Irene's suggestions. Lisa mentioned that the Boro will receive funding to re-vamp former Karsey Park and to also consider the possibility of a memorial there as well.
- Volunteers - always looking for new volunteers and encouraging everyone to use the new form at tabling events. Tami noted that there is a new document in the works for anyone tabling or hosting a SHP event.
- Adopt a Drain – briefly discussed how Irene with the assistance of KT or Tami will start sending out reminder emails.

Other Updates (time permitting)

- Website Updates – Claudia, Lisa
- Gas Powered Leaf Blower Task Force Update – Mark
- Sustainable Jersey Actions - Rose
- School Green Team Update – Meli, Rose
- Redevelopment Update – Irene R
- Community Outreach & Apartment Sustainable Outreach Update

New Business - Lily Wei and Allyson Schmieder had an opportunity to speak, both will join SHP's Discord channel and volunteer for future events.

Next meeting, Wednesday, August 27th (hybrid); in person location to be confirmed