

SUSTAINABLE HIGHLANDPARK



February 26, 2025 - Meeting Agenda
7:30pm – 9:00pm

Google Meeting Information

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

Call Meeting to Order at 7:05pm

Roll Call

Rose DeLorenzo, Irene M, Irene R, Tina Weishaus, Sheree Neese Todd, Claudia Farber, Lisa Kaplan Noss, Paul Sauers, Randy Solomon, Tami Sharma, Maya Hidalgo (student), Meli Pihura Shiu

Topics for Discussion

- Leadership transition – Tina Weishaus

Tina has health issues, so she is stepping down from chairing SHP, but she will continue to participate in online meetings; Caring Bridge is a portal to Tina's health journey in the hospital. Everyone wished Tina well.

Rose DeLorenzo will take over as Chair, after a survey was done to nominate members.

Rose announced that we have a new student member Maya Hidalgo. She is interested in environmental sustainability.

- Mission Statement finalized as: Option 2 - Sustainable Highland Park (SHP), the Borough's Green Team, is dedicated to educating and implementing sustainable actions and practices that improve the quality of life for all those who live, work and visit Highland Park, NJ. This includes environmental, economic, and social initiatives. In our capacity as the Green Team, SHP aims to help the Borough maintain and advance our Sustainable Jersey certification.
- [Climate Superfund Resolution](#) - Rose provided an update -from Matt Hersh who was unable to attend tonight due to a conflict stating Tina helped answer some of the questions that members of the public works committee had and he needed to confirm if the resolution will be an agenda item at the next council meeting..
- Sustainable Jersey – Everyone to [review SJ Actions](#) - Rose will be setting up a meeting with Randy Solomon to talk with us about the SJ Actions over the next few weeks. People will be asked in advance as to what actions they are particularly interested in as well as to find a good date to meet. Jake Callahan, the new assistant Boro administrator will also be invited to the meeting because he will be working with Teri Jover on the Borough's certification application.

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- Tina pointed out that it is important for SHP to coordinate with the Boro on accomplishing the actions of SJ. One way to do that is for SHP to have regular meetings with Jake.
- Tina also suggested that SHP form a dedicated committee to focus on working with SJ and certification.
- Pertinent Committee Updates
 - May 4th Earth Day Event Update: Sheree thanked everyone who is participating in planning. Table coverage has been a focus. Table setup is at 10AM and the event starts at 11AM. Planning is progressing well, especially as there have only been 2 meetings so far.
 - The vendors have been contacted. Vegan vs. vegetarian food was discussed as were other food issues and this will be taken up by the committee and discussed with Meredith, the selected food vendor for our Earth Day event.
 - Themes of Earth Day are activism and resilience, which was discussed as being the SHP theme for the year.
 - New ideas are being considered for this Earth Day, e.g., electric bikes - Rose will contact a bike rider she knows; also there will be a fashion show collaborated with the HS Environmental Club students; however, the students thought that it should be open to students of all ages.
 - HPPL will be bringing the seed library to the street fair. Melania, person now in charge of the seed library at the library, was unsure if HPPL will be tabling at our Earth Day or as part of the Street Fair.
 - Mark will coordinate a clean-up the day before.
 - Communications
 - New Website Status Update: Website is coming along; we need photos, particularly from earlier years. Photos can be uploaded to: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/19RoLZgd2n98IrhfMF-jlQu5uN7-7liZMyAKx6Wu8P6w/edit?gid=0#gid=0>
 - Discord Transition: Tami is willing to do some training on Discord within the next couple of weeks for those who are interested. She will capture the training for new people. Discord server invitation link: <https://discord.gg/9t5V3DkWcV>
 - Newsletter Content: Lisa is looking for content for the March and future newsletters. Please send programming updates to her. Also any spotlight stories would make the newsletter more interesting.

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- Programming Update:
 - Tami is the new Chair of the Programming Committee, working with Mark.
 - Last month there was a food waste reduction workshop; This month there was a low waste craft workshop; children's clothing swap is upcoming in February/March with the next main event Earth Day in May.
 - Possible goals of the subcommittee were discussed. Tami would like those in SHP who have programming ideas/niches to come to a programming meeting and discuss what they are interested in pursuing. A possible future workshop is lawn conversion, as is a workshop on preserving garden produce. The Repair Cafe is also ongoing. Tami said that Discord is a good way to get in touch with her.
 - Irene talked about doing a plant swap event later in May, having attended one she thought went well. One possibility is doing it at the Farmers Market.
 - Randy said that some of the SJ actions may be good to build upon for programming.
 - Children's Clothing Swap tomorrow night at the Teen Center
 - Next Programming Meeting is March 10, 7:30-9pm
- Gas Powered Leaf Blower Task Force Update: Meeting on March 20th, 7- 8 PM in the Library Community Room. Tina talked about how this needs to be promoted, hopefully ending in an ordinance..
- Clean-ups and Rain Garden Clean-ups: Clean-ups continuing; No rain garden update
- Matt's Council update (in absentia): "No other major updates to discuss since our last meeting. The council held its 2025 goals and objectives work session last night. And among the goals in my bucket for SHP were of course the gas powered leaf blower restrictions, our apartment outreach, and making sure Sustainable is very much at the table when providing feedback for redevelopment."

Ideas Collected by Survey for Committee Goals for 2025 (listed below but not discussed)

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- Engage more community members in SHP activities by creating additional opportunities for participation.
- To have a robust schedule of programs, events, and activities that reflect the three initiatives in the mission statement.
- composting town-hall (to inform residents about current status, obstacles, and available options); more general policy and legislation sub-committee; more renter inclusive outreach/activities and programs
- Redevelopment in SHP
- Develop ways to work in the context of a hostile federal administration emphasizing the importance of state and local sustainability efforts: Expand outreach to tenants and non homeowners; expand outreach to residents in Triangle and Woodbridge Ave area; Do more Climate Education and combine with specific local actions like Borough restrictions on gas powered leaf blowers; Begin to develop advocacy at County and State levels and work with other municipalities to do so; Explore more options on composting and work on Statewide composting legislation and/or rule changes; Work more in sync with School District Green Team
- waste reduction subcommittee, and more accessible solutions (from an environmental justice perspective).
- Work on waste reduction strategies for the Boro.
- Broadly - increase outreach to all communities within HP, particularly apartment dwellers and Triangle neighbors.
- redesigned and re-implemented SHP website

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Notes respectfully submitted by Claudia Farber