

April 2003

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Harding Township Game Protective Association will hold its annual fishing derby on **Saturday, April 12th from 8 - 10 a.m. in Bayne Park**. The contest is open to children 13 years of age and under. For each of the following three age groups, prizes will be given for the first fish caught, the largest fish caught and the first child to reach the fish limit of 6: 11-13 years of age; 8-10 years of age; and 7 years of age and under.

NEW VERNON GARDEN CLUB

On **Friday April 11 and Saturday April 12**, the Garden Club will present a fund raising event at the Tunis-Ellicks House on Village Road, from **10 to 4**. Featured will be vignettes created by the area's talented interior and floral designers. Samples include "An Easter Dinner, A Home Office Nook, A Children's Picnic, and A Tailgate Party". Many of the items will be for sale. Admission is \$15 with lunch and afternoon tea available both days for an additional charge. Tickets may be purchased at the door. Information, call 973-377-4396 or 973-377-5377.

Are you ready for spring planting? If so, you may need answers to the following questions: Which plants resist the ravages of deer and drought? Which plants tolerate shade? Which plants love the sun?

Help is close at hand. On **Memorial Day, May 26**, after the parade, you can tap into the horticultural resources of the New Vernon Garden Club's Garden Education Center. Visit the club's docents in the Tunis Ellicks Parlor Garden, the Sarah Ortman Pocket Park, the George Washington Triangle, Bayne Park, and Memorial Park. Their advice may help you avoid costly landscaping mistakes. QUESTIONS? Call Linda Meister 973 539 5807.

The **Township School Election for new board members and for the 2003-2004 budget** is scheduled at the Municipal Building (Kirby Hall) for **Tuesday, April 15 from 2 PM to 9 PM**. This issue contains detailed information on the budget, please see School Board report within.

Annual Easter Sunrise Service at the Pond in **Bayne Park on April 20th at 6:15AM**. The pastors of the First Presbyterian Church and The Church of Christ the King will lead this annual sunrise service. Everyone is welcome.

The **Harding Land Trust Annual Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, April 23, at 8 p.m.** at Kirby Hall, New Vernon. Following a brief business meeting, there will be a special program on "Environmental Stewardship". Chris Allyn, Chairman of the Harding Township Environmental Commission, will demonstrate how Harding's computerized GIS

maps provide instant access to information about our wetlands, steep slopes, stream corridors, soils and vegetation, and assist in monitoring conservation easements. Anthony Sblendorio, Certified Landscape Architect and principal of Back to Nature Landscape Associates, Inc. will present examples of his conservation-based landscape design work. Sblendorio works primarily with native plant materials and incorporates water conservation and pollution reduction in his landscape planning and construction work. All residents are invited for a very informative evening.

THE LIBRARY

Homework Help Online...An exciting new online service, *Homework Help*, is offered through Q&A NJ. Students can access this FREE service by logging onto Q&A NJ at www.gandanj.org. They will first connect to a Q&A librarian, who directs them to a tutor for one-on-one assistance. *The service, designed for students in grades 4-12, is available only to NJ residents and is sponsored by the New Jersey State Library.*

Online sessions lasting up to 20 minutes are offered daily from 2-10 p.m. in math, English, science, and social studies. Students can review specific homework questions and print their discussion at the end of the session. The tutors are certified teachers, professionals, university professors, graduate students, and those enrolled in accredited four-year colleges.

Art in Bloom is a sure sign of Spring! 45 local artists will display paintings, photography, and sculpture. The Basket Boutique will offer a wide array of temptations. (The more sheets of tickets you purchase, the better your chances of winning!) Wine, homemade hors d'oeuvres, a carving station, music...Friday, May 9 only, from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m. at the Kirby Municipal Building. Please respond by April 28.

Sorry, no credit cards at the art show and sale

From the Police Department:

Preparing Makes Sense: In the event of an emergency, Chief Kevin Gaffney advises residents to be prepared to improvise and use what they have on hand to make do for at least three days. Think first about fresh water, food and clean air. Prepare for the unexpected. Remember to include, and periodically rotate, medications you take every day, such as insulin and heart medicine. Gas up your car and plan to store items in an easy to carry bag, such as a shopping bag, backpack or duffel bag. Have on hand: a flashlight with extra batteries, portable radios with fresh batteries, one gallon or more of water, dry cereal or granola, canned food, a manual can opener, juice, soap, and special items such as paper and pens. Township residents should take notice of any stranger

videotaping a school or a sensitive location, such as transportation centers or large buildings and report anything suspicious to the police.

The subject of the **Harding Township Civic Association Essay Contest** will be announced later this month. Details of the contest will be posted on the Civic Association web site, <http://www.hardingcivic.org>, as well as in classes at the Harding School. All resident school age children are eligible to enter. Entries will be due in early May. The winners are selected from among the elementary and middle school age groups: Grades K, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8. Each winner will receive a US Savings Bond, and will be asked to read his/her winning essay at the Memorial Day Ceremony.

Don't forget the Memorial Day Parade, May 26, 9:30 AM The Township's Annual Celebration The Civic Association, together with the community and government of Harding Township invites any interested Township group or organization to participate in this year's Harding Township Memorial Day Parade.

The **HARDING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY** holds its annual community Memorial Day Open House following the Town parade, between 10 am and noon, at the Tunis-Ellicks House.

TOWNSHIP NEWS

Township Committee, March 19th

Public Hearings were carried to the April 2nd meeting on Ordinance No. 4-03 – “An Ordinance Enacting a Demolition Delay for Historic Buildings Supplementing Chapter 105 (Land Use and Development) of the Code of the Township of Harding. The Committee expressed interest in having the Township's Geographic Information System (GIS) updated with information for the Historic District as soon as reasonably possible.

Public Hearing and Adoption of Ordinance 5-03 – “An Ordinance amending Chapter 105 of the Code regarding Conservation Easements. The Ordinance provides in part, that “unique natural or environmentally-sensitive areas including mature forests or other unique vegetation, extraordinary steep slopes and scenic views” may be taken into consideration by the Planning Board when approving subdivisions and that the Planning Board may require easements to protect such areas. The Ordinance passed unanimously.

Later in the meeting there was public discussion on the balance between private property rights on the one hand and the interests of the community, represented by the Planning Board, in preserving Township esthetics. It was noted that Mendham Township recently increased its zoning requirements to 3 acre, 5 acre and 10 acre lots as another way to address the goal of Ordinance 5-03. A member of the public stated that they felt the strong Ordinances regarding development were a contributing factor to the strength of property values in the Township.

A Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds (approximately \$12,000) to adjust budget line items and a Resolution Approving Investments and Reinvestments of Certificates of Deposit, were passed unanimously. Other business discussed before the Committee included the following:

1. Emergency Response plans for the Township
2. Suggestion of May 7th at 7:00 PM for a Korean War Veteran Memorial
3. Discussion of the progress being made on a possible locations and funding for a new Post Office
4. Plans for meetings of the Redevelopment Steering Committee
5. Julia Somers encouraged the Township to support pending NJ regulations on Storm Waters and Category 1 Waters, by filing comments before the deadline in April. She stated that the new regulations would provide stream corridor buffers and benefit the Township and the Great Swamp.

March 6th meeting:

Public Hearings were continued until the April 2nd meeting on Ordinance No. 2-03 and Ordinance No. 3-03, amending Chapter 105 (Land Use and Development) of the Code of the Township of Harding regarding Stormwater Management and to adopt a Zoning Map.

Introduction of Ordinance No. 6-03 – “An Ordinance Adopting The New Vernon Village Redevelopment Plan for the Township of Harding.” It was noted that copies of the Plan had been distributed to various groups in town and that a steering committee would be announced at the next Township meeting.

Several Ordinances were introduced and unanimously approved as follows: Ordinance No. 7-03 – “An Ordinance Fixing the Salary Ranges of Certain Positions in the Harding Township Police Department for the Year 2002 and the Year 2003. It was noted that the Ordinance provided for a 4% increase for Patrolmen and a 4.25% increase for Sergeants.

Ordinance No. 8-03 – “An Ordinance Fixing Salary Ranges of Certain Positions in the Township of Harding for the Year 2003.”

A Resolution Authorizing Interlocal Services Agreement with the Township of Chatham for Emergency Dispatch Services was unanimously approved. The Resolution approved a new three-year agreement for Chatham to continue to provide emergency dispatch services other than during 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM period as they have done for a number of years. The new contract increases the payment for such services from \$30,000 to \$45,000 per annum in the first year \$55,000 in the second and \$60,000 in the third. It was noted that the payment had been \$30,000 for a number of years and it was estimated that the agreement eliminated the need to hire four additional employees to provide these services.

A Resolution Authorizing Transfer of 2002 Taxes to 2003. This Resolution related to one property in the Township where taxes were overpaid in 2002 due to an

error and the taxes were then credited towards taxes due in 2003.

A Resolution Granting Waiver of Steep Slopes Requirements for Block 33, Lot 11.02 (Deer Ridge Drive). It was noted that the subdivision that includes the subject property was approved before the adoption of Steep Slope Requirements.

A Resolution Appointing Noreen Morris Planning Board Administrator. It was noted that 30 applications for the position were received and 5 finalists were selected for further consideration.

Justine Kovacs, President of the Harding Land Trust provided the Committee and the public an update on the efforts to purchase property at the corner of Harter Road and James Street, with a combination of money from Morris County Open Spaces, Harding Township and Green Acres.

Chris Allyn, President of the Harding Township Environmental Commission, then gave a demonstration of the Township's Geographic Information System (GIS). The GIS combines State of New Jersey, Morris County and local information to provide pictures and other data overlaying streets, tax blocks, easements and rights of way, soil types, geological formations, streams, and other information on the Township. Mr. Allyn showed how the Planning Board, for example, might use the GIS to evaluate a hypothetical project.

PLANNING BOARD, March 24

Application: 4-03, Applicant: DiMartino, Block 51/Lot 3.04, Lindsley Rd. Seeks to amend minor subdivision approval to increase 1999 approved house area from 3300ft² to 3792ft²; site visit scheduled.

Application: 11-02, Applicant: Lyall, Block 25.02/Lot 10.04 and 10.07, Sand Spring Rd, to subdivide into two lots, one being 21 acres and the other being 6 acres, off existing private road; site visit scheduled.

The following ordinances were discussed for consistency to the Master Plan and referred back to the Township Committee.

Draft Ordinance - Miscellaneous Land Use Ordinance Amendments: relating to limitations on impervious coverage, approved.

Ordinance 4-03 - Demolition Delay - discussion regarding consistency with Master Plan. The board voted almost unanimously to recommend enacting the measure, with the only opposing vote coming from the board's vice chairwoman, Isobel Olcott.

The ordinance requires that anyone who applies for a permit to tear down a structure within one of the township's historic districts must notify the historic preservation commission within 15 days of the application. The commission then has 60 days to review the application and decide if the structure has historic value. If the building is deemed historic, the applicant's demolition permit would be delayed for a specific period of time while the commission attempts to save the structure, either by moving it, purchasing it or persuading the owner to change plans. *At this writing, the period for delay is in flux, it could for a period from about 6 to about 12 months. Also, the*

age of the structures (pre-1915, pre-WWII?) and the areas of the Township to which this ordinance is applicable are open. Wendy Montgomery of the historic preservation commission defended the ordinance at the Planning Board meeting, saying an owner might be encouraged to expand the existing structure in a way that is consistent with the historic character of the streetscape, instead of tearing down the old building and erecting a new one. At the very least, the commission would try to convince owners to build any new structures in a style and scale suitable to the historic district, she said.

Olcott's position was that she supported efforts to preserve old structures, but she criticized the ordinance as contrary to the spirit of Harding Township, which has honored property owners' rights. She said the township's Open Space Trust Committee had found that quiet consensus building is a more effective technique for encouraging residents to preserve their properties, instead of using legislation to block construction. She said the township should institute a program similar to the county's Farmland Preservation program, in which the township could purchase the development rights to historic properties from the owners. This would ensure that historic properties would be protected from development and that the owners would be compensated for giving up the right to build on the property. Olcott also criticized the ordinance as unclear and difficult for a layperson to understand. Members of the public participated in the discussion, including people both for and against the ordinance.

Ordinance 6-03 - Redevelopment Plan: for consistency with Master Plan, approved. This plan provides for an expansion of the retail businesses permitted in the (B1)zone, to include such stores as flower shops, hairdressers, and gift shops. Precedents were businesses already permitted in the B-2 zone. The plan also permits apartments or boarders above the shops.

HARDING TWP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION, MARCH 6, 2003

MONITOR OF THE MONTH: March - April, Roy Christensen

MEMBERS PRESENT: G. Cassie, R. Cassie, R. Christensen, A. Granbery, W. Montgomery, B. Wild

MEMBERS EXCUSED: T. dePoortere, G. Gannon, P. Hinkle, M. Limmer

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Meyersville Road, Arlo Brown/Brian Rochford property. Further discussions took place regarding the development of this property. A letter will be sent with recommendations outlining concerns about the streetscape, orientation of the proposed house on the property, and with a request for the site plans for the adjacent property. It is strongly felt that the garage should not face the road, and that it would be preferable for it to be a detached garage. The Commission hopes that Mt. Gutjahr will be present at next month's meeting.

2. Demolition Ordinance-The members of the Planning Board felt that they needed more time to digest the new wording of the proposed ordinance. It will be

discussed further at the next meeting of the Bd., March 24, 2003, and hopefully the Bd. members will be able to support it, and send that message to the Twp. Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion regarding T-Mobile's plans to erect a 120' monopole/tower at the intersection of Village & Millbrook Roads ended with the general consensus of opinion being that it was not a good idea. The Township is going to write another letter stating that it does not feel that it is in keeping with the Historic nature of the location.

2. Hirstmont, Mt. Kemble Avenue-This property is on the Morris County list of the ten most threatened historical sites for 2003. Mike Gutwillig will attend the Commission's April meeting to discuss this site.

Chairwoman Montgomery asked for suggestions for the disposition of an Eagle Scout's photographic project of the Pleasantville District. It was decided that it should be donated to the H.T.H.S. for their archives. It will then be available to all.

HARDING TOWNSHIP SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD: School Budget Update

A public hearing on the 2003-2004 school budget was held by the Harding Township Board of Education on March 24. School Superintendent Dr. Dennis Pallozzi and Business Administrator Mary Jane Canose reviewed the budget development process and thanked the members of the Budget Advisory Committee and the Vision Advisory Council for their participation and recommendations.

Despite decreases in revenue due to state aid being frozen for three years and increases in expenditures in health benefits costs, tuition to the Madison school district, and energy costs, the increase in taxes will only be \$16 per \$100,000 of assessed value. The district has taken steps to contain costs wherever possible, through cooperative purchasing, energy-saving facility and equipment upgrades, and increased prescription co-payments.

To meet its responsibility to protect the community's investment in the school facility, and to ensure the health and safety of the children and staff, the Board of Education has developed a long-range facilities plan and is putting in place a preventive maintenance plan to extend the life of the older facilities and maximize the useful life of the newer facilities. Projects that are budgeted in the 2003-2004 operating budget include replacement of the Middle School second floor hallway carpet, safety padding on the poles in the cafeteria, ADA compliant door handles and signage, replacement of some cafeteria equipment, maintenance of the athletic fields, and the purchase of new equipment for maintaining the grounds. Also budgeted from the capital reserve fund is \$20,000 to renovate the Middle School fire alarm system, \$25,000 to replace and repair boiler drums and piping, \$25,000 to renovate and replace older and malfunctioning classroom unit ventilators, \$15,000 to complete asbestos removal, \$10,000 to install storage decking in the gymnasium, \$5,000 to improve the drainage on the fields, and \$104,000 to repair and replace sections of the Middle School roofing. This year the

district will, in accordance with state requirements, separately list all of these projects on the ballot for voter information.

The Board also reviewed the status of the district's fund balance (surplus). Mrs. Canose reported that the district began the school year with a 3.2% surplus. Withdrawals made during the year for unanticipated expenses such as special education transportation and asbestos removal, have lowered the surplus to 1.5% or \$99,980. By controlling spending through the remainder of the year, the Board anticipates replenishing surplus. By state statute, the maximum surplus a school district can have is 6%. If the district's surplus is at 3% or less, any withdrawals need approval from the county superintendent.

Following the budget presentation, the meeting was opened to a hearing of the public. A member of the community thanked the Board for distributing the *Connections* newsletter and providing information to the public in a clear and timely manner. In reviewing the advertised budget in the *Observer Tribune*, he asked for additional information on spending in our district as it compares to similar districts. The New Jersey Department of Education prepares an annual Comparative Spending Guide, which presents a fairly comprehensive comparison of districts. Mrs. Canose will prepare a report comparing the Harding Township district with other K-8 districts with fewer than 400 students, and with other "J" districts.

Questions on the budget can be e-mailed to budget@hardingtwp.k12.nj.us or directed to School Business Administrator Mary Jane Canose at 973-267-6398 x 114 or Superintendent of Schools Dr. Dennis Pallozzi at x 101.

Reports from the Civic Association: At the March 10th meeting, Language Arts Consultant Judy Thornton gave a presentation regarding the new writing curriculum for the school. The new writing curriculum will be implemented in the fall for all subjects including Science. Teachers, Patti Alexander, Lisbeth Decotiis, and Gary Suda who make up the faculty Language Arts Committee also gave presentations. They have been working closely with Ms. Thornton to prepare for the implementation of the new writing curriculum. The committee also recommended Houghton-Mifflin instructional materials. The proposed curriculum is comprehensive and research-based, together their hard work and efforts were readily apparent.

The postponement of a class trip to New York due to the heightened alert was a topic of discussion. Eight parents called the school from the sixth grade, regarding their class trip to New York. The parents stated that they would not be sending their child if the trip were still on, the sixth grade teachers also reported that several permission slips had not been returned. The Board decided to postpone the trip and have a meeting to get feedback from parents. One parent who is also a current teacher explained that she felt the cancellation of any New York trips would send a strong message to the children that New York is unsafe, she stressed her concern for those children who have parents that currently work in New York as well. Another parent stated that perhaps the trips

should not be cancelled since it is a very personal decision, and if the decision is made to not allow their child to go on the class trip, maybe the school could plan something for those students to participate in during the day, so that a child does not feel isolated or penalized in any way.

Dr. Palozzi reported that of the 80 responses to the change of winter and spring break, almost unanimously came back with the request to keep both breaks as is, a full week. There was discussion of security of the school once again, one suggestion was to put key pads on the two doors that remain unlocked throughout the day because several parents walk in and do not sign in at the office, and the office staff can't even see those who has entered the middle school.

Carolyn Swartz, the supervisor of student services has resigned for reasons of retirement effective June 30.2003. Carolyn was instrumental in refining special education and basic skills programs and services.

The proposed budget documents were completed Monday, March 3rd. It was presented to the Visionary Advisory Council on the same evening, and at the PTO meeting on March 18, to the senior citizens at a breakfast on Thursday, March 27th, and to the staff at the staff meeting. The school has set up an e-mailbox for questions, concerns, or comments to: budget@hardingtwp.k12.nj.us. Information about the proposed budget is also on the school website: ww.hardingtwp.k12.nj.us, just click on the link to the Board of Education.

At its March 24th meeting, the 2003-2004 Proposed Budget was presented to the public. A copy of the budget was published in the Observer -Tribune on March 20th and the March issue of Connections, which was mailed to all township residents.

Mary Jane Canose, School Business Administrator presented the budget to the public. Significant budget challenges are due primarily to the following:

- State and Federal Aid remains frozen (not changed in 3 years);
- Major budget increases are contractually mandated (e.g., employee benefits (up 21%), Madison High School tuition (up 11%), and energy costs (up 15%);
- Administration/Business increases (up 7.9%) due primarily to increased costs in legal fees, liability insurance and additional copy machine leases.
- Buildings and grounds increases (up 10.2%) include building and equipment repairs, property insurance and capital improvement projects.

Despite these challenges, current programs and class sizes remain unchanged. While energy costs are on the rise, they are being offset somewhat by savings (approx. \$16,000 per year) resulting from lighting retrofit project and the installation of a new heating control system in the elementary school. Additionally, approved reductions are being made in educational staffing, supply requests, custodial overtime and administrative costs. As a result, the overall budget increase is 4.8% (within the State mandated cap) and increases the tax levy by \$379,829. The district also secured \$535,424 in retroactive funding from the State, which will be applied towards the bond payments for the recent construction/renovation project. This will lower taxpayers' debt

service tax payments by \$44,516 per year over the next 12 years. Net, the overall tax increase will be \$16 per \$100,000 of assessed value, compared to last year's \$21 increase.

Public participation: One Harding resident referred to the various district school budgets published in the Observer-Tribune on March 20th, 2003. Concern was expressed over Harding Township's 2003-2004 "Total Comparative Per Pupil Cost" and "Total Administrative Costs" as compared to the following schools:

<i>Per Pupil Cost Calculations</i>	<i>Harding Twp.</i>	<i>Chester Twp.</i>	<i>Mendham Borough</i>	<i>Mendham Twp.</i>
Total Comparative Cost	\$14,468	\$10,789	\$10,210	\$10,682
Total Administrative Cost	\$ 2,575	\$ 1,107	\$ 1,462	\$ 1,383
Full Time Pupils (regular and special)	318	1,253	654	931

With respect to administrative overhead, the question was also raised as to why Harding needed a principal and a superintendent given the size of the school.

The School Board explained that the superintendent's position is required by the State due to the two- building school campus. Additionally, the Board emphasized the importance of the superintendent's role as a district "CEO" for the school budget and plant administration, as well as the importance of the principal's role focusing on the students, faculty and educational programs. Concerning the per pupil cost differences, Mrs. Canose explained that these specific schools were not good comparables, and that Harding was in line with "J" comparables (i.e., schools considered more "like" Harding school). Also, certain fixed infrastructure costs exist regardless of the number of students and the Harding student population is much smaller than these other schools. It was agreed that additional steps should be taken by the BOE to look at and publish more "like" school comparables in the area.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, March 20

The following resolutions were adopted:

#25-02 James and Nancy McClelland

#2-03 Karen and Jeff Sabol

#28-02 Gregory Swanson

#4-03 Ted and Stephanie Cotton

#23-02 The First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon Part I - Conditional Use Variances

#20-02 Verizon N.J. Inc.

The following extensions were granted:

#1-02 Francis and Donna O'Connor - one-year extension

#5-02 Michael and Mary Anne Janson - one-year extension

#30-01 Stephen and Barbara North - one-year extension

Pending Application #26-02 - George & Barbara Gellert - A revised plan was filed that reduced the coverage in the flag to 10%. A representative of the Environmental Commission commented on this issue stating that both the flag and the staff should be considered in the total coverage calculation of 10%. Curtain drains and catch basins needed to be added to address the stormwater run-off from the steep portion of the driveway staff. Application was approved with these provisions.

Pending Application #23-02 The First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon - The Norths (neighbors on the western side of the church property) no longer objected to the application, since the Church addressed their concerns. Conditional usage addressing the occasional excess of cars that will not fit in parking lot during major religious holidays, there will be no parking in the street. Resolution passed as amended. Regarding the sidewalk extension, the sidewalk will not go across the front of the Church. If the New Vernon Historical Commission enacts something in the future, the Church will revisit this issue. Lighting - There is little or no lighting on existing parking lot by the Christian Ed. building and the right side of the parking lot. Lights need to be on timers so that they go off when use terminates. Lights will be added as needed to provide safe access to the parking lot while being as unobtrusive as possible. Application was approved with these amendments.

New Application #1-03 Kenneth J. and Nancy Slutsky, Fox Hunt Road, Block 51.01, Lot 2 Zone R-1. "C" Variance. Application to reconfigure a deck in the rear of the house. Variance was requested because many things had been done to the house prior to the Slutskys purchase that did not conform, even though they had been done with a building permit and received a C.O. Since these conditions violated existing ordinances, the deck was considered non-confirming. A variance was approved (essentially to clean-up what had been done in the past).

New Application #6-03 - Robert A. and Dana L. Hamwee, Copper Tree Land, Block 17, Lot 55.03 Zone R-1 "C" Variance. Application to install a tennis court 40 feet from the rear property line and ask for relief for excess impervious coverage. Application withdrawn.

Discussion of 2002 Annual Report. The Municipal Land Use Law requires the Board of Adjustment to prepare an annual report on applications and variances pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-70-1 stating that the board of adjustment shall review its decisions on applications and appeals for variances and prepare and adopt by resolution a report on its findings on zoning ordinance provisions which were subject of variance requests and its recommendations for zoning ordinance amendment or revision, if any.

Report stated that there were 5 applications that involved (d) variances for nonresidential properties. The residential variance applications were granted, except for the Kuchler application, which was withdrawn. The 25 approved residential applications involved the following variances: Building setback, 14; Nonconforming structure, 16; Total

building area, 5; Building area ratio, 5; Lot coverage ratio, 4; Accessory structure in front, 4; Fence setback, 1; Temporary use variance, 2.

Comment on annual report was that the Planning Board takes another look at coverage for flag lots. If there is a private road that is shared by other houses, then it would not be considered coverage.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Plant Material not Favored by Deer

The following list was prepared in collaboration with members of the New Vernon Garden Club and reflects the experience of gardening in Harding. Residents might find it helpful in planning their spring plantings.

Deer in our area rarely damage the plants listed. Nevertheless, they will browse at any plant, if no alternative food is available. In addition, each deer herd is different. The young deer eat what their mothers eat, and eating habits may vary from herd to herd. Deer will usually not eat any leaf that is gray and/or furry. Many herbs fall in this category.

<u>Trees</u>	<u>Perennials</u>	<u>Shrubs</u>	<u>Groundcover</u>
Cedar	Daffodil, Jonquil	Leucothoe	Pachysandra
Fir	Foxglove	Andromeda	Lamium
Maples, including ornamentals	Hellebore	Boxwood	OrnamntalGrasses
Spruce	Lavender	Cotoneaster	Ajuga
Dogwood	Iris, Lilly of the Valley	Skimmia	
American Holly	Ferns	Juniper	
	Bleeding Heart		
	Cimicifuga, Fairy Candle		

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION, March 4:

Well survey: State admits it is scaling back resources and will not continue providing any new data.

NRI: The work on Harding's Natural Resource Inventory is proceeding to develop new language for the draft, strengthening the water section. Zelle, a hydrologist, will be working for the Kimballs to update maps regarding water sources.

Model EIS: The project is finalized for now. A final report will be sent to the state and Connelly Assoc. will be advised accordingly.

Little plants stream study proposal is continuing.

Tony Kolega and Penny Hinkle have volunteered to raise funds to plant Margetts Field with native grasses used as food for birds.

Subcommittee on Fencing nothing to report.

Discussion regarding matters before the Planning Board:

Village Re-Development Plan was discussed. The board agreed to support the proposal with these comments:

1. Concern there is too much proposed impervious cover.
2. Various set-back issues.
3. Suggestion to keep library at current location.
4. Concern over loss of open space.
5. Discussed relocation of road.
6. Will there be enough parking?
7. Could the DPW be moved to another location, freeing up space for the post office and library. Ted Cotton will prepare notes to present to Twp Committee.

Discussion regarding matters before the Board of Adjustment:

1. Presbyterian Church proposal was approved.
2. Gellert, Village Road, Block 15, Lot 10. A variance is being requested for relief from the Impervious Coverage issues, 10% of a 7 acre lot is being proposed. A site inspection will be held on March 8, at 9:00 a.m.
3. AT&T is proposing to erect an antenna on the N.V. Fire House property.
4. Hammell, Village Road, Block 17, Lot 55.03 presented plans to build a tennis court. Set-back issues and % of impervious surface coverage issues need to be addressed. Chairman Allyn will write a letter, for the Commission, outlining this Commission's feelings regarding excessive impervious surface coverage.
5. New Application-DiMartino, Lindsley Road, Block 51, lot 3.04. This applicant received approval to construct a 3,300 sq. ft. home on this property in 1999. They are now asking permission to enlarge that home to 3,792 sq. ft. No Environmental Impact issues were noted.
6. New Application-Misko, Peachcroft Rd., Block 32, Lot 1.19. R. Greenway stated that the present house on this property is in a flood plain. Property owners are requesting permission to construct a 24' x 38' barn on the property. They have a received a permit from the state DEP. A letter will be written from this Commission outlining its concerns regarding further building in this flood plain. A special flood hazard permit is being requested. R. Greenway will write a letter for the Commission.
7. New Application-Horstman, Bailey's Mill Road, Block 480, lot 1 & 1.01. Property owners are requesting permission to move a lot line to create two conforming lots. No comments deemed necessary.

OLD BUSINESS: LOI/General Permit Request: Antonaccio, Woodland Road, Green Village. This Commission had requested notification of the date and time of the site inspection.

SHADE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE No report this month

The deadlines for the next 2 issues of the Thumbnail are April 30, 2003 and May 28 2003. You should EM or fax articles (typewritten preferred, please) to the Editor, Hesna Pfeiffer, 973 605 1127, email hesnaj@aol.com. Call the editor if necessary, 973 540 8911. *The Thumbnail is copyrighted and published by the Harding Township Civic*

Association, and is mailed to every home in Harding Township. Current and past issues of Thumbnail, as well as the Directory are posted on our Website- check it out: <http://www.hardingcivic.org>.

RECYCLING: Commingled recycling of plastics, aluminum and tin cans, glass bottles and jars, mixed paper, corrugated cardboard and household batteries at Municipal Garage every Wednesday, 7AM-Noon, (7AM to 9AM self service); and 1st and 3rd Saturdays 4/26, 5/10, 5/24, 6/14, 6/28 from 9-12 AM. Residents are requested NOT to leave recyclable materials if the center is closed.

A Hazardous Waste and computer/drop-off event is scheduled in Morris County: Saturday, May 10, Morris Co Fire Fighters Training, 500 W Hanover Ave, Parsippany, 9AM to 2 PM. Call MCMUA for acceptable/unacceptable materials, 973-829-8006.

DATES TO REMEMBER, meetings at 8PM, unless as noted.

Municipal Court (1 st and 3 rd Tuesday)	6 PM	
Environmental Commission (1 st Tuesday)	7:30 PM	5/6, 6/2
Seniors (2 nd and 4 th Thursday at Pres Church)	11 AM.....	
Planning Board (4 th Monday)	8 PM.....	4/28, 5/19, 6/23
Hist Preservation Comm (1st Thursday)	8 PM	5/1, 6/5
Board of Health (2 nd Thursday)	8 PM.....	4/10, 5/1, 6/12
Board of Education (2 nd and 4 th Monday)	7:30 PM....	
Board of Adjustment (3 rd Thursday)	7:30 PM....	4/17, 5/15, 6/19
Township Committee (1 st and 3rd Wed)	8 PM.....	4/16, 5/7, 5/21
Shade Tree (2 nd Monday)	3 PM	4/14, 5/12
Municipal Alliance (3 rd Wed at Harding Schl)	8:45 AM	4/16, 5/28
Harding Twp Civic Association	7:30 PM	4/7, 5/5