

December 2003

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

**THE LIBRARY**

**Outdoor Book Drop in Place...**by the parking lot entrance to the Municipal Building.

You are welcome to deposit Library materials in our new book bin.

**Evening Hours...**the Library is open on Thursday evenings until 7 o'clock.

**Events for Children...*Holiday Storytime*** for ages up to 5: Thursday, December 11 at 10:30 a.m. Festive stories, songs, and a craft will be offered. An ***After-School Program*** on the Wright Brothers' first flight and our country's aviation history: for grades K-2 on Monday, December 15 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. Activities will help children learn the dynamics of flight. K-5<sup>th</sup>-graders are invited to drop in and ***Play Your Favorite Board Game*** on Monday, December 29 anytime between 2:00-4:00 p.m. Children are welcome to bring along a favorite game. ***Make a Craft*** is scheduled for Tuesday, December 30 at 10:30 a.m. for ages 3-7. You may bring leftover holiday wrap, ribbons, cards, and other decorations with which to create a take-home craft.

To register for children's programs, please call the Library at **973-267-8000, Ext 32.**

The Executive Board, staff, and volunteers at the Harding Township Library wish you a happy, healthy, peaceful 2004 filled with good reading!

**Correction: The Police Department is NOT participating** in the Coat Drive for Jersey Cares. ***Please do not drop off any coats to the Police.*** Thumbnail apologizes for any inconvenience caused.

**CAROL SINGING:** The entire community is invited to gather for Christmas Carol singing on Sunday, December 21, at 5 PM to 6 PM at the lighted tree in Bayne Park. Songbooks will be available for everyone. Please dress warmly and bring a flashlight.

**Flu Shots** There will be two influenza vaccine clinics for Harding residents 18 and older at the Hanover Twp Recreation center, Jefferson Rd, Whippany, on **Saturday December 13, 1-3 PM and Thursday January 8, 6-8 PM.** The cost is \$7 per person, no appointment is necessary. Please call the Board of Health, 973 267 8000, ext 24 if you need additional information.

**HARDING COMMUNITY INVITED TO SCHOOL BUDGET PLANNING SESSIONS**

The Harding Township Board of Education has begun the 2004-2005 budget planning process. The official date of the public hearing for the budget is March 22<sup>nd</sup> and the School Board Election is April 20<sup>th</sup>. Current schedule of dates and topics for discussion are:

Monday, January 12	Review of departmental requests – prioritizing needs
Monday, February 9	Discussion of the tentative budget – bringing it together

Monday, March 8                      Informal presentation of the proposed budget  
These meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Media Center on the second floor of the Middle School Building on Lee's Hill Road, New Vernon.

## **TOWNSHIP NEWS**

### **Township Committee**

At the Wednesday November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Harding Township Committee, all the elected members of the Committee were present. Mayor Murray began by announcing a new date, **December 17<sup>th</sup>**, for the gathering organized by the Morris County Freeholders to honor veterans of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War at 7:00 PM at Town Hall.

### **Redevelopment Plan**

Two ordinances concerning the Redevelopment Plan that were continued for public hearing from the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting were discussed. The Committee informed the public that they still needed to incorporate input from several stakeholder groups on the two possible locations for the library (Village center or near the Municipal building). It was unanimously approved that **Ordinance 18-03** which provides specific guidelines for the Redevelopment Plan would be reintroduced with language allowing either site for the library, with a vote on the Ordinance scheduled for December 17<sup>th</sup>. **Ordinance 19-03** which modifies zoning in the B-1 district consistent with the goals of the Master Plan was passed unanimously.

Mr. Edgar Anderson, a resident of Tempe Wick Road and a design professional, then spoke on the topics of historic preservation and good design and architecture as they relate to the Redevelopment Plan. Mr. Edgar summarized a letter he had previously delivered to the members of the Committee. One major theme he expressed was that good new design and site-specific architecture that is compatible with "Rural Harding" should take precedence over simply preserving what is old or even worse, blindly copying or cloning the past to create "colonial theme park."

### **Other Business**

The 2004 **Salary Ordinance 23-03** was unanimously approved. The Ordinance provides for a 4% salary increase for police patrolmen, a 4.25% increase for police sergeants and a 4% increase for all other non-contractual employees.

Ordinance 24-03, that allows for up to 10% of **Open Space Tax** funds to be used for historic preservation was unanimously approved by the Committee having been previously approved by the voters of Harding.

Four **tax settlements** were approved. Mayor Murray commented that while these specific tax settlements were in the best interests of the Township, the Township would monitor all tax appeals and proposed settlements to assess their impact on the operating budget and the tax base.

The contract with Atlantic Health Systems for an **Employee Assistance** program was approved. The transfer of \$18,000 between line items in the **Municipal Budget** was

approved. The Committee commented that this was a technical adjustment and that each controllable expense in the budget was below budget.

#### **Historic Preservation Easement**

There was considerable discussion concerning a historic preservation easement held by the Township on the Kirkinis property, Lees Hill Rd. The Committee was asked to vote on whether a small horse barn that was recently built on the property was “reasonably compatible with the historic nature of the property.” Evidently, the barn was built without prior approval and may be in violation of zoning regulation. While the resolution to be voted on addressed only the building’s compatibility with the easement, Ms. Prendergast and Mr. Lanzerotti felt the resolution need to be redrafted to make it clear that the Committee was not granting any broader approval of the building or endorsing the building, other than as it related to the specific easement. The three other Committee Members voted in favor of the resolution and the matter now goes before the Zoning Board. If the barn is found to be in violation of existing zoning regulation, the matter would go before the Board of Adjustment.

#### **PLANNING BOARD, November 24, 2003**

An application for minor subdivision was heard, Horstmann, BI 48.01, lots 1 and 1.01, Bailey’s Mill Road. This property backs into the Passaic River. The applicant lives in the house nearest the road, where there is a second accessory residential dwelling. The latter required a new septic which was recently approved. Applicant plans to sell lot 1.01 in the future, and wanted a lot line adjustment at the natural tree line. The Board is requesting a conservation easement as part of the procedure. It was provisionally approved, subject to changes in the wetlands and conservation easement delineations and changes to the map.

The agenda for the January 26 meeting might include the McShane subdivision application, Dickson Mill Rd and Cherry Lane. The owner has an agreement with Lancor for development of the property, Block 8, lots 2 and 5, about 40 acres total, one house on lot 5.

Farrell reported on the Historic Properties Committee, which met following the public meeting on 10/29. She said, that among the attendees, there was strong **agreement** for the first four points on the 10/29 discussion points: 1. Should the township permit, without a variance, **additions to historic structures that do not conform to front setback** requirements, if certain criteria are met? 2. Should the township **exempt historic accessory structures** from certain zoning requirements? 3. Should the township permit a historic structure to be converted to or used as an **accessory residence** on the same lot as a primary residence **regardless of the size of the lot**? 4. Should the township permit, without a variance, a historic structure to be used as a **rental accessory residence** as a means of encouraging historic preservation?

She also reported there was strong **opposition** to the following questions: 1. Should the township permit, without a variance, the **subdivision** of a large lot that contains a historic

home, such that the **historic home remains on a smaller than required lot** if approval is obtained for a compliant septic system and the lot created for a new home conforms to the zoning ordinance? And 2. Should the township enact **special restrictions** to ensure that the streetscape is preserved **in Historic Districts**? Mrs. Olcott said that the Planning Board should note the public comment by Mrs Kremenz on 10/29 regarding Township government representations made in 1998 when the Silver Lake Historic District was made a Federal registered District, that the Township government would not place any restraints on the residents within the districts. Mrs. Olcott also said she did not want any change to the density standards already in existence in the zoning ordinances.

The significance of the debate is that an unknown but large number of houses are already within the "Harding Historic Districts". The Harding Master Plan enables the Township government to regulate the areas within the historic districts, whether these districts are "federally registered" or not. There are defined seven such "historic districts": 1. Tempe Wicke, which is west of Rt 202 and along Tempe Wicke Rd; 2. New Vernon, which is along Glen Alpin, Village, Millbrook, and Blue Mill Rds, a much larger district than the "crossroads" and "village"; 3. Pleasantville, down Long Hill and along Pleasantville Rds; 4. Logansville, Lees Hill, Baileys mill, and Pleasant Plains Rds; 5. Silver Lake, from James to Spring Valley Rds, including Van Buren, Red Gate, Dickson Mill and Cherry Lane; 6. Green Village, along Green Village and Village Rds; and 7. Hartley Farms, a private housing development on Spring Valley, Blue Mill and Red Gate Rds. One of the questions raised at the Planning Board 11/24 among the board members was how many properties might be affected by any possible zoning changes, but no answer was given by Mrs. Farrell.

The impact of being in a Historic District is already major, as building permits, variance requests or subdivisions within a historic district have their plans reviewed at the Historic Preservation Commission (see below for that report). Although this is termed an "advisory" board only, in fact the power to suggest changes has cost at least one person living on Pleasantville Rd about \$100,000 in fees and delay costs, according to Sharon Leibe's testimony on 10/29. Mrs. Prendergast of the Planning Board commented on 11/24 that she doubted the accuracy of this estimate, saying that the official Township fees are small, but this comment discounts the impact of a review process and the costs of changes, maps, expert time and construction delays on an individual.

#### **HARDING TWP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION, November 6, 2003**

- 1. Walker, Glen Alpin Road, Block 21, Lot 10**—Owners plan to repair an existing barn by installing asphalt shingles (replacing a slate roof). The shingles will be "Pewter Grey," a color that blends into the landscape. Owners also plan to replace the current rolling barn door with new garage doors that will look like old barn doors. HPC found that the proposed plans were an appropriate rehabilitation of the barn and required no further review.
- 2. Greenbaum, Mt. Kemble Avenue, Block 18, Lot 33.03**—John Barba, architect

for the owner, presented plans to repair an existing, historic barn. The Board of Adjustment had allowed the barn to be retained because it was to be rehabilitated and would a house a dumpster that would otherwise have been visible from the street. The barn will now be used for storage, which requires the installation of heat and air conditioning but not plumbing. The open beam structure will be retained, the windows will be replaced with identical windows, and the exterior clapboard sheathing will be replaced. The roof will be replaced with "Pewter Grey" shingles, a color that blends into the landscape. The garage doors will be modernized and replaced, but will retain the existing appearance. In general, the board supported the plans for repair. HPC suggested that board and batten siding be considered for the first story, especially at the gable ends, to de-emphasize the height of the two-story barn. It is anticipated that owner will apply for a building permit; no further review is required by HPC.

3. **Carey, Van Beuren Road, Block 5, Lot 6**—Owners and their architect, William Welch, presented plans showing a proposed sympathetic and compatible 800 sq. ft. addition to a historic structure originally built in 1928 as a stable and reconstructed into a residence in 1955. The addition is scaled to appear like an attached carriage house, 21 feet at its height. Existing rooflines and door design are mirrored. The same windows (6 over 6) will be used. Efforts are being made to match all materials on the older structure. Matching roof tiles from the original manufacturer are being pursued; there will be some reuse of existing brick. The "aging" techniques proposed (to further blend the façade and roof) will enhance the building. It is anticipated that a construction permit will be sought; no further review is necessary by HPC.
4. **Windolf, Featherbed Lane, Block 16, Lot 18.01**—The structure that is the subject of this application dates back to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and is considered an accessory structure. It is located in front of the primary residence on the property and contributes to the rural streetscape of Featherbed Lane. Applicants presented plans to add an architecturally compatible 900 sq. ft. addition, making the house 2800 sq. ft. (3BR/3BA) in total. The proposed addition extends from the side of the house. HPC suggested replacing the proposed stone front with clapboard and further suggested that a brick chimney be used. The addition would then be more compatible with existing materials and maintain the look of an old farmhouse. HPC believes that the expansion of this accessory structure should be permitted. The plans enlarge a small house so that it will be more compatible with current lifestyles and will likely promote the preservation of this historic house in the future. They will also maintain the historic and rural streetscape. HPC wants to review future plans showing revised elevations and drawings, if any.
5. **Premier, Brook Drive North, Block 35, Lots 16.01 and 16.03**—HPC had no comment on these applications because they did not affect the streetscape and

the properties were not in a historic district.

6. **Horstman, Bailey's Mill Road, Block 48.01, Lot 1.01**—Owner is submitting a revised subdivision plan. HPC found that that the requested subdivision may place the historic home on the property in danger of demolition, which, if it occurs, would negatively impact the historic district. HPC wants to review further changes to this proposed subdivision, as well as subsequent applications for building permits or variances.
7. **Kadish, Lee's Hill Road, Block 47, Lot 4**—A barn and paddock were constructed without a permit on a property that holds a historic preservation easement. Owners must now appear before the Board of Adjustment to obtain permission to keep the structures. HPC found that the barn and horses are compatible with the Old Logansville District, streetscape, and dwelling. Given the proximity of the small building to the property line, HPC requested that screening landscape be added along the westerly boundary of the property. HPC also suggested the barn be restricted to agricultural use. HPC required no further review.

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The records of the school board meeting, Superintendent and the Business Administrator reports on district, facility and resolution updates, please refer to the school's official website: [www.hardingtwp.k12.nj.us](http://www.hardingtwp.k12.nj.us).

**November 10, 2003:** The BOE listened to a report from Superintendent Pallozzi and Principal Dee Klikier on their recent attendance to the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development conference on Enhancing Learning: What Works in Schools." There were various professional development activities focusing on building professional learning communities, and workshop discussions on increasing student achievement through research-based practices. The general theme was the importance of getting teachers on board with respect to planning, development and resource availability if a school is going to affect change in students. Miss Klikier spoke about the workshops and information obtained to put in process and improve student performance. Teachers at Harding Township School have in place the materials and resources available to teach students today, and are able to move forward with ideas from these workshops. There was no public participation.

**November 24, 2003:** Overview of the production of The Musical Man. Mrs. Decotiis and Mrs. Griffin presented an update of important events and dates to remember, some of which are shown here: Parents meeting 12/8/2003, Auditions for 6-8 the graders start 1/19/2004, Rehearsals run from 1/26 to 4/1, Show dates 4/2 and 4/3. Volunteers are needed to help with many items from costumes to stage and set construction. Contact Lizbeth DeCotiis, 973-267-6398 X147 for more information.

Progress toward Board Goals. Dr. Palozzi presented a status report on the 5 Board goals. These are: 1) pass monitoring objectives for the local school district, 2)

develop a professional learning community, 3) develop and implement a plan to meet facility needs, 4) facilitate the implementation of differentiated instruction strategies and 5) restore the free budget balance to a minimum of 3%.

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, November,** No meeting this month.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION,** NOVEMBER 11, 2003

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Allyn, Eileen Cameron, Ted Cotton, Bonnie Gannon, Roger Greenway, Tony Kolega; MEMBERS EXCUSED: Justine Kovacs, Mike McCormick, Penny Hinkle, David Dietz

REPORTS:

Recycling-Nothing new to report.

NRI Update- Accepted by PB and the project will be closed out.

Subcommittee on Fencing Issues- It was suggested a video be taken of the long stretches of fencing on Village Road. It was also suggested that accident incidents be discussed with the police.

Planning Board:

The McShane property (top of Cherry Lane, off Dickson Mill Rd); (B 8 and L 2, 5, 5.02, 5.03) proposed subdivision was discussed. The application is currently on its way to the Planning Board, to be heard in January.

Redevelopment was discussed, specifically the amended B-1 zone and re-sighting of the library. Mayor Murray asked for suggestions from the Historical Society, Planning Board, and the Citizen group investigating this proposal. A meeting will be held on November 19.

The Carrying Capacity study, conducted by Maser, has yielded preliminary results. Calculated values were as high as 7.2 acres/household for some combinations of parameters and soil/bedrock types. These results go next to the Advisory Review Committee of the Planning Board before being presented to the full Planning Board.

Board of Adjustment:

Nelson property (Block 4 and Lot 30) variance will likely be approved but impervious coverage will be limited to present level of 14.9%.

OLD BUSINESS:

Great Grass Experiment: Justine Kovacs discussed the approval to continue the experiment with suggestions from the Garden Club and citizens. A buffer zone near the lake will continue to have long grasses to discourage geese while other parts of the park will be mowed to allow picnicking and general access. Balance between the health of the park and public access will be stressed. Warm season grasses are also proposed in Bayne Park. It will be up to the Township to decide the matter.

Conservative Easement monitoring report on inspections along Silver Brook will be soon completed by Harriet Honigfeld, consultant.

NEW BUSINESS:

The 2004 meeting formula will be First Monday of the month. (Current schedule is 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday). The main meeting room should be available for use on that night. ESP grant program will be continued and grant ideas and proposal writer volunteers are needed. Some suggestions include: study the noise levels affecting Harding from 287; bike paths that could connect with the park system; walkways for children; study of noise from planes landing in Morristown airport; and survey detention/retention basins in town for current functionality and compliance with design guidelines.

### **HARDING TREE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

The shade tree commission has had a very successful year. The commission had 24 successful applications and only two situations to resolve. There are two properties on Long Hill whose applications required resolution. One property owner agreed to plant 35 trees. The other remains open. In that instance a request was made to cut 60 trees, which was denied.

The commission discussed developing an ordinance protecting specimen trees of a certain dimension, the dimension an indication of age, in order to protect and preserve indigenous species. Research and discussion on this topic is continuing.

There was further discussion with respect to restoration of landscaping for Borough Hall. Some shrubs and trees need to be replanted and other shrubs removed and not replaced. Both Borough Hall and Memorial Park need maintenance funds and personnel for this purpose.

The preservation of trees and maintenance of landscaping in municipal areas enhances the value of all the properties in this community. Our town remains the envy of other municipalities largely due to the fact that attention is paid to these matters.

### **Civic Association News, Appeal for Annual Dues, Annual Meeting**

Thank you for your generous response to our appeal for annual dues, as well as your appreciative notes about our efforts to continue with high quality reporting of civic events. ***You help us achieve our goals by joining as a dues-paying member.***

The **Civic Association Annual Meeting will be February 2, at 7:30 PM**, in the Township Hall. The program is being planned, look for more details in the future, but the topic will involve the Redevelopment effort in the Village. Members attending will be asked to vote for new Officers, as well as on bylaw changes necessitated by the change of status of the Civic Association to a Section 501 (c) (3) organization, to conform to US IRS rules for tax deductibility. The nominees for new officers and the revised bylaws will be posted on the Civic Association website, <http://www.hardingcivic.org> in the near future.

If you would like to participate more actively in the Civic Association, please let us know who you are. We welcome new members to the Executive Committee, which covers and reports on civic affairs. We meet monthly, and also make a commitment to cover a Township meeting, sometimes as infrequently as bimonthly, sometimes semi-monthly, take notes on the proceedings, then send in a write up to the Thumbnail. By



covering and disseminating information on the workings of the Township government, you serve others who cannot attend meetings, but who are vitally interested. If you are interested, send an Email to the editor, hesnaj@aol.com, or write The Harding Township Civic Association, PO Box 72, New Vernon, NJ 07976.

**Call for updates to the Harding Township Directory**

If you have responsibility for a listed service or organization, please take a moment to review and update your listing. Send it along to the Civic Association, either at the postal address -[**PO Box 72, New Vernon, 07976**]. Or **faxed to Thumbnail editor at 973-540 8911. If you want an electronic copy of your organization's current listing in the directory in order to update, please send an EM requesting it to the editor, hesnaj@aol.com.** Please get updates to us as early as you can in 2004. Remember that it is your responsibility to ensure that your organization's listing is correct.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: THE DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT TWO ISSUES OF THE THUMBNAIL ARE** December 29 and January 29, respectively. If you have any information to be included, please send to the editor, Hesna Pfeiffer. Most preferred format is by E-mail, **email hesnaj@aol.com**, as we don't have to re-type, but fax is also acceptable, to the editor's **fax, 973 540 8911**. You can send items early! Call the editor if you have any transmission questions, **973 538 0020**. *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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays 12/27, 1/3, 1/17 from 9-12 AM. Residents are requested NOT to leave recyclable materials if the center is closed.

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

Municipal Court (1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday)	6 PM	
Environmental Commission (1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday)	7:30 PM	12/2, 1/6
Seniors (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs at Pres Church)	11 AM.....	
Planning Board (4 <sup>th</sup> Monday)	8 PM.....	12/15, 1/26
Hist Preservation Comm (1stThursday)	8 PM	1/8, 2/6
Board of Health (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday)	8 PM	12/11, 1/8
Board of Education (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday)	7:30 PM....	
Board of Adjustment (3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday)	7:30 PM....	12/18, 1/15
Township Committee	8 PM.....	12/17
Shade Tree (2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday) 3 PM		12/8
Municipal Alliance (3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed at Hardng Schl)	8:45 AM	1/21
Harding Twp Civic Association	7:30 PM	1/5