

June-July 2004

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Discussion of potential land use change continues in a Special Public Meeting of the Township Planning Board, Wednesday June 23, 7:30 PM to discuss whether changes in the minimum lot size should be made, especially in view of the Master Plan's goals to preserve the rural character of the Township. This meeting will be at Town (Kirby) Hall, main conference room. An engineering consultant retained by the Township studied the township's soils and underlying geology and analyzed the ability of the land in the township to accommodate wastewater disposal systems in a manner consistent with the Township's goal of protecting and preserving the township's sensitive environment. This is known as a carrying capacity study. The Report recommended densities of 3.5 to 4.2 acres per residential lot in areas dependent upon septic systems. The current R-1 Zone density of 3.0 acres per lot is less and there are some zones with even smaller minimum lot sizes, suggesting that the Township may consider rezoning. A summary of the report can be found on the Civic association website in the May Thumbnail issue: www.hardingcivic.org.

The Township annual Memorial Day parade was held May 31. The Citizen of the Year, Rene Castenschiold, was honored. Castenschiold is a local Christmas tree farmer and electrical engineer who has been a resident since 1959. He had volunteered for a large number of organizations over the years. Some of Castenschiold's contributions include fighting a proposed jetport 40 years ago in Harding and supporting the establishment of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in its place. He and his wife, Martha, raised three children in town and he served on the Parent Teacher Organization and Board of Education Curriculum Committee during the 1960s. In addition, he was the founder of the local Republican Club, director of Civil and Disaster Control, chairman of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, chairman of the Planning Board, and president of the Washington Association, which successfully fought construction of a proposed county jail near Fort Nonsense in Morristown.

Winners of the annual "Fat Tree" contest sponsored by the Shade Tree Committee were William Clackworthy, with a catalpa tree measuring 15 feet six inches in diameter, and the MacCowatt family, whose white ash measures 13 feet eight and one-quarter inches across. Both winners received a gift certificate to Country Mile Nurseries. Shade Tree gives many thanks to Tom Gallo who has contributed these certificates for the past nine years!

The Winners in the Harding Township Civic Association Essay Contest 2004 were announced at the Memorial Day Parade. Four winners of the student essay contest read their winning compositions during the festivities. The winners were second grader Ari Goret, third grader Matthew DiRuggiero, sixth grader Lauren DiRuggiero, and eighth grader Daniel Naturman. The Civic Association salutes all the fine young people who worked hard to enter the contest, and congratulates the winners, who will be receiving a \$100 savings bond from the Civic Assn. as their prize.

Cable Franchise Hearing. The Township of Harding will hold a municipal consent hearing on **Wednesday, June 16, 2004, at 8:00 p.m.** at Kirby Hall (the township hall) to evaluate the

application of Patriot Media & Communications CNJ, LLC for the renewal of its municipal consent to own, operate, extend, and maintain a cable television and cable communications system in the Township of Harding. All interested parties are invited to attend and be heard with respect to this application. Copies of the application will be on file with the Township Clerk and can be reviewed Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Township Hall.

The Auxiliary to the New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department wants you to know that they are *looking for new members*. If you are interested in helping your community, please consider joining the Auxiliary, a group that aids and benefits the NVVFD.

The Auxiliary is active in many ways throughout the year!

The Emergency Committee assists at fire calls with beverages and food.

They sponsor fund raising events such as Bake Sales on Election Day and Soup Contests. They are the stocking stuffing elves for Operation Santa. They are responsible for many departments at the annual Auction including: White Elephant Tent, Books, Toys, Jewelry, Outdoor Garden-Basket-Pet Tent, Candy, and Baked Goods, and many other members volunteer their time in clothing and on the auction block.

Is there training? Here's the BEST NEWS -- NO TRAINING NECESSARY!! All you need is the desire to help your volunteer fire department. How do you join? Other questions? Please call Florence Orefice the membership chairperson at 973-822-0563. Monthly meetings are held at the New Vernon Firehouse at 8:00 P.M., on the 1st Wednesday of the month, September - June.

THE LIBRARY *Happy Summer Reading!*

Do you take pleasure in poring over secondhand books? Do you thrill to the feel of a book in your hand? Are you elated by a "find"? If so, consider indulging your passion at the Library by working with a steady stream of donated books: stocking the book cart, sorting and storing books in the Library's basement storage room, and organizing donations for the Election Day Book Sales. Please speak with Kathie Josephson. Messages may be left at the Library: 973-267-8000, ext. 32.

Father's Day Storytime for children 5 years and younger on Tuesday, June 15 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Stories, songs, and a special craft for Dad. Registration not required.

Summer Library hours...weekdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until noon. Closed on Sundays.

Summer Reading Time is just around the corner! The Library welcomes children of all ages and reading levels. Join us during July and August as we *Discover New Trails @ Your Library*, the theme of this year's program. *There will be prizes for all who participate!* (Visit the official NJ State Summer Reading Website: www.njsummerreading.org). The kick-off event, featuring bird expert Jennifer Norton, will be held on **Thursday, June 17 at 4 p.m. in the Court Room**. Jennifer will talk about her work with the wild birds of New Jersey. Sign-up kits and reading logs will be handed out; those without a library card will have a chance to apply for one. You may also register at the Library. On **Thursday, September 9** there will be an end-of-summer reading party for all registered participants. More details in July.

Keep up to date on Library news over the summer via our Website: hardingcivic.org/library, and remember that the M.A.I.N. library catalogs are also at your fingertips via web2.morris.org.

Parking Spaces in Madison available. On May 7, the Township received notice that Madison authorized 125 additional commuter parking spaces, in the Kings Road Parking Lot 3. There will be 75 daily spaces, at \$5 per day, and 50 permits at \$250 for a 6-month trial. A lottery form of selection will be used to grant the permits. Applications are administered at the Madison Police Dept, Connie Phillips, 973-593-3015.

Harding Township Civic Association—Notice to Incorporate

The Council of the Harding Township Civic Association plans to form a new entity to be called the Harding Township Civic Association, Inc. That entity will be similar in purpose to the current HTCA and will perform the same services to the Harding community, but will seek 501(c)(3) status under the Internal Revenue Code. It is the intent of the current HTCA to dissolve itself and then transfer its remaining assets to the Harding Township Civic Association, Inc., once tax-exempt status is obtained.

Copies of the proposed Bylaws of the Harding Township Civic Association, Inc., as well as its Unanimous Consent of Board of Trustees in Lieu of First Meeting of Board of Trustees and its Certificate of Incorporation will be available on the HTCA website, www.hardingcivic.org. Please review these documents and give your comments to Wendy Miller at (973) 292-0550 before September 10, 2004.

THE GARDEN CLUB

Club member Barbara Wilkerson won a blue ribbon and two second place ribbons for her entrant in the Horticultural Division at the Philadelphia Flower Show that was held in March, her first attempt at the prestigious show. The Garden Club gives a large thank-you to Irv Zander Landscaping, Inc. for maintenance of the Memorial Park, mulch and weeding in preparation for Memorial Day, as well as donations of time and material to complete the walkways in the park.

HARDING TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Residents are reminded that with the warm weather we can expect increased mosquito activity and the chance of increased transmission of West Nile Virus. To reduce the risk of mosquito bites, residents are advised to wear pants and long sleeve shirts when outside; use insect repellent in accordance with label instructions; eliminate standing water around the outside of the house, especially in flowerpots, birdbaths, buckets, pools and roof gutters; repair window and door screens and avoid outdoor activities at dawn, dusk and evening hours. As in years past, the prevalence of West Nile will be monitored through dead crow surveillance. Residents are asked to report any dead crows or kestrels to the Health Department. Reporting of other dead birds such as songbirds, starlings or grackles is not necessary. Further information about mosquitoes and West Nile Virus is available on the state website, www.state.nj.us/health or from the Health Department at 973 455-7296.

Save the Date! The Harding Township Educational Foundation announces the following events; more information in September.

1. Ladies Tennis Outing, October 1st 2004

Tennis Outing and Lunch; Place: Morris County Country Club

2. Wine Tasting and Dinner, November 12th 2004

With Silent and Live Auction; Place: Bernards Inn.

TOWNSHIP NEWS

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

At the May 19, 2004 meeting, Mayor John Murray, Mary Prendergast, Donald Dinsmore and Epsy Farrell were all in attendance, Lou Lanzerotti was absent.

Schedule

The Mayor began the meeting by mentioning several upcoming activities scheduled for the next several Township Committee meetings

June 2 Glen Alpin Property Feasibility Study Review - proposals were due May 28th.

June 16th Miscellaneous Zoning Changes

House Number List

Cable Franchise Approval

July 14th Resolution to Approve Audit

Public Hearings on Ordinances

Ordinance 11-04 – Bond Ordinance authorizing purchase of Glen Alpin – Resolution TC-04-110. This Ordinance would allow the Township to borrow up to \$619,000 through the issuance of bonds to fund a portion of the purchase price of the Glen Alpin property on the corner of Mt. Kemble and Tempe Wick. The balance of total purchase of \$1,150,000 would come from Morris County Open Space (\$500,000) and Harding Open Space Trust (\$31,000). The above figures do not include renovation or maintenance.

As has been reported, the Township and various groups have been investigating possible uses for the building ranging from private offices to a restaurant. The Mayor reported that there is an interested party that would finance the restoration and help in gaining a liquor license in return for use of the building as a restaurant. The application for the additional liquor license is proceeding and is up for review by the State Attorney General. The Mayor asked the other Committee members how they felt about the Glen Alpin property being used as a restaurant. Ms Prendergast expressed concern that the goals and operation of a for-profit restaurant were inconsistent and possibly in conflict with the mission of historic preservation. Mr. Dinsmore was also cautious, but stated that similar arrangement seemed to work in Williamsburg and Newport and he would support a restaurant if it was necessary for the project to proceed. Ms. Farrell said she shared Ms. Prendergast's concerns.

The Mayor commented that he did not like the idea of the Township funding restoration or maintenance of the property. He indicated that the restaurateur he was negotiating with could spend \$700,000 to \$900,000 on the restoration and improvements. He added, however, that he did not want to spend time working on the restaurant option given the mixed signals from the Committee and that it was not fair to the restaurateur to continue discussions if the Committee was not in favor.

The Ordinance received three votes in favor, with the Mayor voting no. Bond ordinances require four affirmative votes in order to be adopted, so the Ordinance was not adopted.

Introduction of Ordinances

Ordinance 12-04. Introduction of Ordinance by Resolution TC-04111 to correct the spelling of Glen Alpin Road; change the name of Bellmead to Spring House Lane; and confirm precise locations of Spring Valley Road and Green Village Road .

The Resolution passed unanimously. The Bellmead home owners association asked for help in buying and erecting a post to hang a new wooden street sign for Spring House Lane. There was lively debate about the appropriateness, both legal and practical, of using Township funds including labor to improve private property and the pros and cons of different types and styles of signs. A motion was made to inform the Bellmead homeowners that the Township could not help them improve private property. The motion passed three to one with the Mayor voting against the motion.

Resolutions

TC-04-114, To accept rates for health, prescription and dental coverage. The resolution received unanimous approval for an 11.5% rate increase for health and a 30% increase in dental premiums.

TC-04-115, To appoint Lyn Evers as Harding Township Treasurer. The resolution received unanimous approval.

TC-04-113, To authorize Bruce Kaplan as broker of record for health and prescription coverage.

The Mayor commented that in his meeting with Mr. Kaplan, Bruce indicated he thought he could gain some saving for the Township on the next health insurance contract. The resolution passed unanimously.

Resolution of Appreciation for Mary Demeter,

Resolution of Appreciation for Anne Breslauer, The Mayor did not read the full resolutions but commented that they described the years of dedicated service performed by these individuals.

The resolutions were approved unanimously.

Meeting Agenda Procedures

The Mayor, in the interest of making the twice monthly Township Committee meetings more efficient, has instituted the following schedule for getting issues placed into the meeting Agenda.

Routine Matters

Must be submitted to the Town Clerk by the Thursday before the Wednesday meeting.

Emergencies

Can be added with the concurrence of the Chair or a majority of the Committee.

The Mayor noted the importance of getting items in early, including supporting materials so the Committee members can be informed and the discussion meaningful. He also added that the public was always welcome to speak and introduce items but they would not be on the formal agenda unless submitted according the schedule above.

Mark your Calendars

The first Township Committee meeting of September has been changed to

Wednesday September 8th from Sept 1st to be after the Labor Day holiday.

The Mayor also announced that the Reorganization Meeting for 2005 will take place on January 3, 2005. This is change from what was previously announced.

Farmland Easement for McShane Property

The Committee returned from executive session and announced that they were introducing Bond Ordinance 13-04 to allow the Township to purchase an easement to preserve open space on Block 8. The land (a total of 40 acres) is bounded by Blue Mill, Dickson's Mill and Cherry Lane (known as the McShane property or the Lancor Development). The Block has been approved for subdivision and housing development (5 additional homes) but the easement will preserve a significant portion of the property and the current streetscape. The terms of the easement purchase are being negotiated. The bonds would be serviced with money from the Harding Open Space Trust Fund. Sally Dudley, Penny Hinckle and Justin Kovacs have been working on the transaction.

HARDING OPEN SPACE TRUST COMMITTEE, June 12, 2006

(Report received from Sally Dudley, Open Space Trust Committee Chair)

Harding's 14-member Open Space Trust Committee (HOST) has been meeting monthly over the past year, focusing on specific open space acquisitions, stewardship, especially for properties with conservation easements, and identifying additional funding sources. Members include representatives from the township committee, the environmental commission, the planning board, Harding Land Trust, Harding Historical Society and the township administrator. The HOST is facing a major challenge to preserve important land throughout the township, given the limited funding available through Harding's Open Space Tax. Once buildings rise on fields and forests, the land's character will never be the same again.

Over the past year, the HOST has been working with the Trust for Public Land to acquire 9.575 acres on the corner of Tempe Wick Rd. and Route 202, site of the Glen Alpin Gothic Revival house, built in 1840. General "Mad" Anthony Wayne turned back Continental mutineers during the American Revolution on this property. An important gateway to the Jockey Hollow section of Morristown National Historical Park, Morris County and Harding Township, Glen Alpin also has important environmental properties. The land helps protect water quality in Primrose Brook, Harding's major Category 1 stream. An extension of Patriots' Path will ultimately connect Glen Alpin to Jockey Hollow. Eventually, it is hoped that the house will be open to the public on a regular basis. HOST has raised the funds needed for the acquisition through partnerships with Trust for Public Land, Harding Land Trust, Morris County Open Space Fund, Morris County Park Commission, and NJ Green Acres. And the HOST is working with historic preservationists to identify funding sources for the building's restoration, and to locate future tenants who are professional, non-profit and/or public organizations.

In May, the Harding Open Space Trust Committee voted to recommend that the Township Comm. pursue an agreement with developer Gutjhar for the purchase of a conservation easement on a 10-acre field at Dickson's Mill Road and Cherry Lane.

PLANNING BOARD,

May 17, 2004 (The following article is excerpted from the Observer-Tribune, issue of 5/20/04,

written by Julie Lange):

A standing-room-only crowd at Monday's special Planning Board meeting indicated residents take their water quality, and their property rights, very seriously. The topic of the meeting was the carrying capacity study completed for the township in March by Maser Consulting. The study concluded that current development trends in the municipality could result in a loss of purity in the groundwater that feeds area wells. When the report was presented on April 7, the Township voted to ask the Planning Board to recommend if zoning should be changed to discourage over-development.

Planning Board Chairman Marshall Bartlett said the township has no preconceptions about how to address the findings of the study. "We don't have a plan," he said. "Right now we just have the Maser report. We wanted to give people in the town a chance to speak at the beginning of the process. We want public input." A major topic of discussion was the target nitrate concentration stipulated in the report of 2.0 mg per liter of groundwater. Township planner Susan Kimball said the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set a limit of 10 mg per liter for drinking water safety, and the Pinelands Commission has set its target nitrate load at 2.0 mg per liter.

Resident Sally Dudley, who formerly served on the Pinelands Commission, said the 2.0 level was set in the Pinelands area because testing revealed that wells in that area had less than 1 mg per liter of nitrates at the time, and the commission considered it important to preserve the quality of the water. Gary Annibal, Harding's public health official, said nitrate levels in township wells currently average between 1 and 2 mg per liter. The water purity levels in the Passaic River and Primrose Brook, both which run through the township to the Great Swamp, are regularly monitored and run significantly below the 2.0 mg per liter.

Several residents questioned if 2.0 mg per liter was the appropriate target for the township to aim for, and if there were other ways to achieve it, such as restricting fertilizer use or implementing more efficient septic systems.

Harold Scaff of Lee's Hill Road, who said he's been farming in the township for over 40 years, was among those speaking up for the rights of property owners. "How long have we been testing water in town?" he asked. "How does it compare over a 10-year period to justify a 2.0 mg per liter goal? I'm a property rights advocate. I love my property and I want to manage it as I see fit. I would like to see greater study on nitrate goals." Several residents spoke about the potential impact of rezoning on property values. But Bartlett said the board was restricted to focusing on planning goals, which include protecting the environment and preserving Harding's rural character. "Our goals don't include maximizing the dollar value for land owners," Bartlett said. "But it is an important economic issue that we're very mindful of." Bartlett said that while property values were not a planning issue, they could be addressed by the Township Committee after the Planning Board completes its recommendations.

Kimball laid out the process for future discussions on the carrying capacity study. After the Planning Board completes its discussion on whether zoning should be revised and on what basis, which could encompass several meetings, a map will be prepared which portrays the board's proposed solution. When the board is satisfied with its recommendation, an amendment would be written to the town's master plan, which would be reviewed in draft form at a public hearing. Once adopted, it would be sent on to the Township Committee who, if they agree with the amendment, would authorize the drafting of an ordinance, which would

also be reviewed by the Planning Board. Before the ordinance could be approved, another public hearing would be held.

The board set a date for another special Planning Board meeting on Wednesday, June 23, at 7:30 PM when additional public comments will be heard on the issue of possible rezoning.

Planning Board Meeting May 24, 2004

Completeness waiver request for Application: 02-04 minor site plan: wireless communications facility (3 antennas); on the 1st Presbyterian Church, Block 49 / lot 1. Applicant: Omnipoint Communications Inc. Action: approved.

Public hearings:

Application: 12-03 preliminary major subdivision; Block 8 / lots 2, 5, 5.02, 5.03
Applicant: Lancor Development, Inc., McShane, owner). Dickson Mill Rd. This application was given preliminary approval.

Application: 7-03 minor subdivision with variance, Youngs Rd, block 47 / lot 13.
Applicant: Hugh and Jeanne Hurley. This application was carried to the next meeting

SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

Please note that a detailed summary of the minutes can be found at the following web site: www.hardingtwp.k12.nj.us.

At the May 10th BOE meeting, Dr.Palozzi presented the revised Library/Media Center Curriculum, written this year. The scope and sequence of skills was developed in alignment with the N.J. Core Curriculum Standards and the Information Literacy Standards developed by the American Assoc. of School Librarians and the Assoc. for Educational Communications/ Technology. The focus of the program is to ensure access to a wide range of information and that students become competent users of ideas, information, technology, and other resources. The current Physical Education Curriculum which was implemented in 2001-2002, was satisfactorily reviewed with few changes.

A new Athletic Program Handbook was prepared and designed for coaches, parents and students and includes: codes of conduct, responsibilities, attendance requirements, supervision and emergency/safety procedures (all coaches are now required to be trained in first aid and CPR). BOE member, James Novotny suggested incorporating guidelines for addressing bullying/hazing into the handbook.

Dr. Palozzi commented on McGreevey's efforts to limit a district's free balance surplus to 3% and lower the CAP from 3% to 2.5% which is of concern to this district's future financial stability. Further efforts will be made through the Vision Council to develop a public information campaign to promote community awareness of McGreevey's intentions.

The Buildings & Grounds committee discussed the district's planned energy project and roof replacement for this summer. Also, remedial work on the fields is being planned for early June after Field Day. This includes repairing drainage, fixing holes and reseeding.

The search for a new Madison Superintendent of Schools is in process and the Madison Board along with the N.J. School Boards Assoc. will be reviewing resumes and interviewing selected candidates.

The Board approved the reappointment of tenured and non-tenured teachers as well

as non-tenured administrators and secretaries/assistants.

Public Participation: Several Harding Twp. School parents expressed concern over personnel decisions involving the failure to renew the contract of two non-tenured teachers. Parents wanted to understand the process and the parties who are involved. Dr. Pallozzi and the Board explained the process required by law and code. Recommendations are made to the BOE by the administrative team (Pallozzi, Klikier, Graham, & Canose) which is then reviewed by the BOE. Dr. Pallozzi and Miss Klikier indicated that there are a wide range of classroom and other factors considered when making these decisions, and it is their responsibility to weigh these carefully and make recommendations to the Board based on an individual's total performance. They both acknowledged that this is a critical part of their job and this responsibility is taken very seriously. Miss Klikier also explained that while parents are not part of the teacher evaluation process, feedback from parents provides a source of information that is taken into account.

Notes from meeting 5/24/2004.

Public Hearing on Lease Purchasing for Energy Upgrade:

Over the course of the last year, the BOE has been working on a proposal that would allow the upgrade of the energy services that supply the Harding Township School. The upgrades will total \$822,729. The state has agreed to pay \$329,000, the HTBOE will use \$200,000 from the capital reserves budget, and the balance of \$293,000 will be financed through a 5 year lease with Commerce Commercial at an interest rate of 2.82 %. Also, Ms. Canose mentioned that the upgrade comes with a guaranteed reduction in energy bills of 20% /year. There was no public discussion or objection to the proposals and the appropriate resolutions were passed to initiate the necessary documents with Johnson Controls to provide the upgrade. There was some discussion about future options to consider solar panels as a way to deal with high energy costs of the all electric elementary school.

Other items: A resolution, drafted by Mr. Novotny and Ms. Douglas, was passed to oppose the Governor's initiatives and to send a document to the Governor and the appropriate legislators that states: HTBOE objects to the Governor's failure to fund public education, 2) the Governor's enforced regionalization of school districts, and 3) the Governor's focus on politically expedient tactics which will provide short term local tax "relief" but are fiscally irresponsible.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION, May 6, 2004

Application Reviews, Old Business

1. Demolition Application (Block 33, Lot 12) Tempe Wick Road – Billings

Contributing Property in the Tempewick Historic District c. 1790. Final decision for demolition deferred another 30 days to 6/8/04 because final engineering/site plans and elevations are not complete and available for review. It was agreed a Certificate of Approval would be granted by the HPC no later than 11/6/04 (nine months from original response date).

2. Demolition Application (Block 47, Lot 10) Lee's Hill Road at Youngs Road – Dorne Contributing Property Logansville Historic District (c. 1800). Wendy Montgomery reported on Board of Adjustment discussions and site visit. HPC recommendations have been given to the Board of Adjustment.

3. Demolition Application (Block 49, Lot 11.2) Glen Alpin Road – Cusano

Contributing Property New Vernon Village District (c. 1800). Nine month demolition delay on this property ended April 4, 2004 and Certificate of Appropriateness was issued on this date. The property is currently for sale.

New Business

1. Block 16, Lot 3, Village Road – Kastner – This is a contributing property (c.1853) New Vernon Village District. The commission reviewed floor plans and commented on window replacement.
2. Block 4, Lot 27, 203 Blue Mill Road – Mayfield Partners – There was no comment from the commission regarding the demolition of the non-contributing property in the Silver Lake Historic District. The proposed new construction will contribute to the rural streetscape of this historic district and will complement existing homes in Hartley Farms, and area on the State Historic Register.

Board of Adjustment Review

The commission reviewed the following plans from the Board of Adjustment and had no comment. Windolf – Featherbed Road Block 15 Lot 18.01, Bocci – Glen Eagles Road Block 48 Lot 7.05, and Hall – Lake Trail West Block 39 Lot 12.

The commission did invite applicants King/DiMatteo (Blue Mill Road) to review proposed building materials. This is a non - contributing property adjacent to the Silver Lake Historic District.

Planning Board Review

Block 8, Lots 2.5, 5.05, & 5.03 Cherry Lane – McShane/Lancor – The HPC was able to reach a compromise with the developer and retain a smaller grass triangle at Cherry Lane and Dicksons Mill Road. Revised engineering drawings presented to the Planning Board are expected to reflect the continued existence of the triangle.

Other Items

Dicksons Mill Road Bridge – (Block 7 Lot 27) This bridge is located in the Silver Lake Historic District. The proposal to replace the bridge over Silver Brook was discussed with Linda Read, Project Manager, Medina Consultants as well Project Manager for Morris County. The current bridge has a 30' span and 20'.2 curb width. Due to flood damage and scour problems it has only been temporarily stabilized, however the geometry of the roadway is substandard and considered unsafe. The new bridge width must be a minimum of 26' wide. The position of the county is that if it cannot gain agreement on the design and appearance of the new bridge the current bridge will be closed to through traffic. The commission will work to influence the appearance of the bridge but will not stop its reconstruction. The county will be flexible on the appearance but not the dimensions of the structure. The commission is currently researching any exceptions to the 26' (curb to curb) rule and whether there is any precedent for new bridges to be built narrower than 26 feet. This is subject to Section 106 review and HPC will have further opportunity to comment.

Silver Lake Historic District – The boundaries of the proposed extension of this district were discussed. The boundaries follow the properties on both sides of Sand Spring Road beginning at Rout 287, and follow along Sand Spring Road to Sand Spring Lane, the along Sand Spring Lane to James Street, where it connects with the Silver Lake District. In response to an initiative by residents of Sand Spring Road, the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer has determined this area to be eligible for inclusion in the New Jersey

and National Registers of Historic Places because “ This neighborhood abuts the existing boundaries of the Silver Lake Historic District on one side, and possesses many of the character-defining features of architecture and landscape, strengthening the significance of the district as a whole”. In all, there are at least 17 “contributing properties” in this designated area. The specific properties involved and implications of this designation will be discussed at a future meeting.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT no report this month

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION, no report this month

SHADE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

At the May 10, 2004 meeting of the Shade Tree Committee there was extensive discussion and review of recommendations as to appropriate plantings for the former Lyle property on Sand Spring Road. The builders, Weedmont and Kaplan are going to submit a plan. The Shade Tree Committee will oversee the planting. The Committee is redoing the landscaping of the Harding Township Municipal Building in accordance with the original plan.

The deadlines for the next 2 issues of the Thumbnail are August 31 and September 29, respectively. *The next issue will be sent in early September.* Reportorial coverage of Town meetings continues throughout the summer, and you can continue to send in articles or announcements for publication in September. Send articles (typewritten preferred, please) to the Editor, Hesna Pfeiffer, email hesnaj@aol.com, fax: 973 540 8911. Call the editor if necessary, 973 538 0020. *The Thumbnail is copyrighted and published by the Harding Township Civic Association, and is mailed to every home in Harding Township.* Website is 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 certain Saturdays 6/12, 6/26, 7/17, 8/7, 8/21 and 9/4, 9/18 from 9-12 AM. Residents are requested NOT to leave recyclable materials if the center is closed.

DATES TO REMEMBER, please take note of the times.

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