

January 2005: Happy New Year!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Board of Education announcement:

State Representatives will be on hand to discuss Statue S-1701 with the Morris County community on Wednesday January 19th at the Morristown High School at 7 PM. The Harding BOE has emphasized that S-1701 could have the ultimate effect of Harding eventually losing its own school district and that they would appreciate attendance from the Harding community. A big turnout may help their efforts to get sections of S-1701 amended. (for more information on the possible negative effects of S-1701 see www.NJSBA.org/1701)

The **Civic Association Annual Meeting will be Monday February 7, at 7:30 PM**, in the Township Hall. Mayor John Murray will address the community on the “State of the Township”. If you would like to participate more actively in the Civic Association, please come and let us know who you are. We welcome new members to the Executive Committee, which covers and reports on civic affairs. Refreshments will be served.

THE LIBRARY

Science fiction and fantasy are popular genres among teens, the Library is hoping to start a **Science Fiction Book Group** for grades 6-7. Please contact the Library to sign up.

Keep up to the minute on Library news and events by accessing our Website at hardingcivic.org/library. Scroll down to the bottom of the pages to make sure you don't miss any information. Subjects presently covered are: HTL Services, Book Clubs, Events for Children, and Library Closings.

Friends of the Library

Art in Bloom sponsored by Friends of the Harding Township Library, is fast upon us. *Mark your calendars for Friday and Saturday, May 13 and 14*. Our gala Preview Party will take place on May 13. We are delighted with the roster of artists participating in the show, including a number of new ones who are well known in northern New Jersey, as well as several from further away whose works we know you will appreciate. Also included are a number of fine crafters whose works will complement any home. In addition, we have expanded the outdoor sculpture to include a wider range of styles and materials. We are excited to be designing a new component of *Art in Bloom* for the children of the community who will participate

in the show on Saturday. More details will follow.

As with all *Art in Blooms* in the past, this year's show will be only as successful as the people who help to create and run it, as well as our friends and neighbors who attend it. If you would like to help in any capacity, please contact Jane Kendall at 973-425-0616 or janeakendall@cs.com.

As Friends of the Harding Township Library look back upon our first year, we want to thank the entire community for its enthusiastic support. Our initial Literacy Mural Painting Project by the Township children on the theme "Creating a World of Readers, Artists, and Dreamers" was a big success, with over 75 children participating. The coin drive continues and has been gratifying. The Jazz Program on a glorious October afternoon was complete with popcorn and snow geese flying overhead! You'll see more of us in the year to come, and we hope that you will join us to help support our mission as partners with the Harding Township Library.

The New Vernon Volunteer First Aid Squad is extending an open invitation for you to consider joining the Squad. In the coming year, we are faced with the loss of several long-time members and juniors who are off to college. We need to begin training their replacements if we are to maintain our tradition of always being there when you need us. One of the most essential volunteer organizations in the Township, the Squad is made up of diverse members of the community: from high school students to retirees, from busy professionals to stay-at-home parents. Few of us had any medical training before we signed on, but we share a commitment to serve one 12-hour "on-call" shift per week. This is not a lot of time, but the payoff is huge! The training is exceptional, and it could well turn out to save your life, the life of a loved one, or that of a neighbor.

You can help by becoming an EMT or First Responder. Encourage a friend to join with you. Please call Geoff Dobson, President, NVVFAS at 973-326-1996. He would be delighted to welcome you aboard and to introduce you to our team of dedicated volunteers. Join a vital organization and learn a life-long, life-saving skill. You'll be glad you did!

HTRA-Madison/Harding Little League **Baseball & Softball** Registration-**Saturday, January 15th, 9:00 am- 12:00 noon** at the Madison Community House Gym, 25 Cook Avenue, Madison. You must bring a birth certificate and proof of Harding residence. All players 8 & up must be present to be fitted for uniforms at registration. HTRA will continue to have T-Ball in Harding. Registration will be in March. Any questions please call Brian McCabe @ 973-425-9399.

If you are interested in playing **Girls Lacrosse** 3-8th grade this season please send to harding_girls_lacrosse@yahoo.com : Name, address, phone number, birth

date, current grade, school and e-mail address. This includes all that played last year. Boys Lacrosse, Grades 1-8, registration on the Madison Lacrosse website, www.madlaxjr.com

TOWNSHIP NEWS

Township Committee, December 1, 2004

Announcements

The Mayor announced that a Letter Feasibility Study on the recently purchased Glen Alpin property was just received and will be reviewed by the Township Committee and the Glen Alpin Steering Committee. After review, the Study will be made public. Ms. Farrell announced that the Historic Preservation Committee would release its revised element for the Master Plan in the first quarter of 2005.

The Open Space Steering Committee has suggested that more input is needed from citizens on criteria for evaluating open space projects. The Mayor strongly encouraged anyone with interest to get involved and that involvement could be informal and less time consuming than as formal committee member. Citizens should look for news of upcoming meetings.

Library Update

The Mayor reported that he and Mr. Lanzerotti met with the Library Committee and reviewed the storm water management study, the relocation of the driveway and relocation of the parking lot. Long-term plans for the site will include paths to connect buildings and new plantings. The Mayor agreed to work with the Committee to find funding for the enhancements that would benefit both the new Library as well as the Municipal building, although no commitment of Township funds was made. The Township Committee has reviewed conceptual drawings of the site. It appears that the primary traffic flow will be in the back of the lot and parking will probably be increased. Additional analysis of the septic system requirements needs to be completed by the Library Committee.

It was agreed that Township attorney Roger Clapp would start work on drafting a lease of land for the library including details on the sharing of utilities and approval of design and other terms defining the relationship between the Township and the library.

Township Committee December 22, 2004 Meeting

Child Safety Seat Reward Program

Patrolman DeVries and Officer Irons made a presentation on a new program intended to increase the proper use of child car seats and promote a positive image of the Harding Township Police Department. Modeled after the bicycle helmet program, police officers will be handing out "summons" to children who are properly

secured in their car seat. The “summons” entitles the recipient to a double scoop of ice cream at the Minute Man. The Department will consider joining with neighboring towns in an education program to instruct citizens in the proper use of safety equipment

Harding Township School

Angelo Santoro, President of the Board of Education and Mary Jane Canose, Business Administrator made a presentation to the Committee on the possible impact of recently enacted **State Legislation S 1701**. According to Mr. Santoro, the law limits annual budget increases to 2.5% or the consumer price index (the law also reduces the number of budget items that are not subject to the cap such as hazardous route bussing that were previously not subject to the cap). In addition Mr. Santoro noted that he expected the biggest impact to be the reduction of the allowed budget surplus from a historical 3-6% of the total budget to 1%. Mr. Santoro said that the lower surplus as mandated by S 1701 would result in very little extra money available for unplanned needs. Mr. Santoro felt the legislation was marketed as a property tax relief measure and rushed through the legislature. He added that it was his opinion that the legislation’s real intent was to reduce the number of school districts from approximately 600 to 300.

Mr. Santoro said that in the past, the Harding School District had done an analysis on the tax impact of combining with the Madison School District. This study will be updated in early 2005 using more current property values and demographic data so that Harding is prepared should there be pressure to look again at regionalization. The Township Committee unanimously approved Resolution 04-231 regarding S 1701 and urging amendment or repeal and supporting the Board of Education.

Glen Alpine Update

Justine Kovacs, President of the Harding Land Trust addressed the Committee on the need to upgrade the heating plant of the property to ensure the health of the building and the benefits of replacing the electrical heat system with a more cost efficient system. Ms. Kovacs asked that \$10,000 be released from the Harding Open Space Trust (HOST) fund to partially fund a new two zone forced hot air system and noted that HOST would apply for a \$10,000 matching grant. Mayor Murray noted that while the Committee could release the funds according to the terms of HOST, the Committee had not received a formal written request as has been the practice. A compromise was reached whereby an emergency appropriation against the regular 2005 budget could be made, to allow work to proceed. Ms. Kovacs noted that the full Feasibility Study was delayed due to the personal circumstances of the Architect.

Other Activity

The Mayor thanked everyone that supported the Township in the past year, particularly Chris Allyn who was named volunteer of the year. The Mayor noted that Mr. Allyn's work with the GIS system had saved the Township many thousands of dollars. He also singled out the work of Planning Board on the new five-acre zoning. The Mayor previously made more extensive year-end comments at a meeting of Township employees and volunteers.

Lancor Cherry Lane Development

Correspondence and meetings are taking place to resolve specific determinations of the boundaries between public and private land including determining where the side of the public road begins and ends. No action was taken. Separately, Resolution TC-04-230 concerning a storm water management agreement with Lancor was approved.

Approval of Resolutions

Numerous Resolutions were approved as a group without public discussion. Interested parties re encouraged to access the public record for further details. The Committee did ask for follow up analysis on a \$400 Internet service bill. Mr. Lanzerotti said that he hoped that the temporary plumbing official appointed, Michael Rossi, would be responsive to the citizens and an improvement over past officials.

Township Committee January 3, 2005 meeting

Donald Dinsmore was sworn in for a new term as Committee member. Mary Prendergast nominated John Murray for Mayor and Chairman of the Committee. Donald Dinsmore seconded the nomination and Mr. Murray was unanimously elected and sworn in. The Mayor nominated Lou Lanzerotti for Vice Chairman and the nomination was seconded by Mr. Dinsmore. Mr. Lanzerotti was unanimously elected to the position and sworn in.

Standing Committees

The following committee appointments were approved:

Committee	Chair	Vice Chair
Planning, zoning & legal	Farrell	Prendergast
Finance & insurance	Murray	Lanzerotti
Public Safety	Dinsmore	Murray
Public works & buildings	Lanzerotti	Dinsmore
Personnel	Murray	Farrell
Recreation Commission	Murray	Farrell
Freeholder Liaison	Prendergast	Dinsmore
Glen Alpin Steering	Prendergast	Dinsmore
School Board Liaison	Lanzerotti	
Open Space Liaison	Murray	Dinsmore
Board of Health Liaison	Murray	

Resolutions

Numerous resolutions were approved without public discussion. Interested parties are encouraged access the public record for details.

Announcements and Presentations

Glen Alpin

Mary Prendergast informed the Committee that an existing furnace at the Glen Alpin property seemed to work, and that this may reduce the amount of money needed to upgrade the heating system as discussed at the December 22nd meeting.

Harding Land Trust

Justin Kovacs made a proposal for the use of the "Gate House" on the recently acquired O'Connor property on James Street and Harter Road. The Land Trust would like to lease the building from the Township for a nominal rent to use the building as office, meeting and storage space for the Land Trust. In exchange for use of the building, Ms Kovacs proposed that the Land Trust would renovate the building including installing an ADA compliant bathroom facility and ramps for access to the first floor and maintain the property. Peter Dorne is acting as the architect for the project. She asked that the Township also provide the services of the Department of Public Works including some materials to prepare the site for sewer, water and gas lines. The Mayor estimated that the cost to the town to demolish the building would be between \$10,000 and \$15,000 based on previous experience. The Mayor offered a fifteen year lease and up to \$15,000 of DPW services and materials. He also asked that the Land Trust make available to the Township, the use of building for special meeting and events.

PLANNING BOARD, December 20, 2004

Application, Furst, Block 51, Lot 3.04, Lindsley Rd; amendment of DiMartino Resolution approved for same size house with 35' height limit. Original was for 30' height.

Application, Carey, Van Buren Rd, for 3-lot subdivision, one with existing house, two building lots, all comply with current 5-acre minimum zone. Site visit was scheduled, hearing will continue at Jan 24 meeting.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, December 16, 2004

#8-04 - Charles W. and Shirley M. Roy - 67 Youngs Road, Block 47, Lot 14.02, Zone R-1. Approved, 90' setback for one corner of pool, subject to removal of portions of pool deck.

#17-04 – Approval of the variance application of Brian Hamilton, 66 Long Hill Road, Block 51, Lot 33, Zone R-1, to allow a replacement residence within the front and side required 100' setback; variance was granted from the 3% maximum building area ratio requirement; from the 10% maximum lot coverage.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The records of the school board meeting are found at Board Notes, on the school's official website: www.hardingtwp.k12.nj.us.

Regina Egea, an AT&T executive and mother of two, has been appointed to fill the vacancy on the township Board of Education left by Nora Peyton's resignation. Peyton had resigned after serving several terms on the board due to increased work responsibilities. Egea said she submitted her application after the board advertised the vacancy in November. Egea, who lives on Welsh Lane in the New Vernon section of the township, said Friday she has not yet declared her intention to run in the April school board election, but she will probably do so later. A vice president of local services and access management for AT&T in Bedminster, Egea said she has 25 years of business experience working in all sizes of organizations. She said her practical management experience and business sense, particularly in human resources, will be helpful in serving on the board.

HARDING TWP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION, December 2, 2004

New applications:

Windolf, Block 16, Lot 18.01, Featherbed Lane. This home is not within a historic district, however the accessory dwelling (c. 1865) on this property is a contributing dwelling. The Commission had no comment because the proposed changes to the primary dwelling do not impact the streetscape.

Furst, Block 51, Lot 3.04, 16 Lindsley Road. Even though this property is not located within a Historic District, Commission members have some concerns regarding streetscape issues because several properties on Lindsley Road property across the street (15 Lindsley Road c.1763) contribute to the historic nature of Harding. Additional information is need.

Carey, Block 7, Lot 1, 509 Van Beuren Road. Contributing property (c. 1925), Silver Lake Historic District. The Commission reviewed this application preliminary major subdivision approval to create a three lot residential subdivision with bulk variances for the existing barn and garage. Commission members voiced concerns regarding potential streetscape issues. The Planning Board might consider flexible zoning for this property.

Pending applications:

Subdivision, Block 25.02, Lot 10.04, 93 Sand Spring Road. The Commission received an update on this application from its Planning Board liaison. The Commission supported suggestions that perhaps the developer could negotiate access to the two lots at the top of the property with owners of adjoining properties on Sand Spring Road. This would improve the streetscape associated the proposed long driveway which would be constructed through the hillside and very visible from

Sand Spring Road.

New Vernon Village Redevelopment – plan review:

Mr. Tim O’Conner discussed his plans for the “Academy” on Village Road (Block 18, Lot 3.) With, his architect, Mrs. Julia Buteaux, he introduced preliminary plans for the restoration and renovation of this historic building (c. 1799) as well as the plans to construct an accessory building in the style of an expanded barn on the property. Both buildings will have commercial use. In general, the Commission found the proposed plans in keeping with the historic context of the historic district, while not in full compliance with proposed, and currently advisory, design guidelines for the Redevelopment area (B-1 zone only). The Commission suggested that the front door and porch be retained as this represents the “familiar” and expected streetscape. While the Commission liked the proposed architecture for a new secondary structure, they suggested that placement of the structure, parking area and landscape plans be reviewed to look for ways to mitigate the impact of the parking area on streetscape. Commission input will be reviewed and revised plans will be presented to the Commission when they are available.

Please note that the following homes have demolition action pending:

Randazzo – 12 Millbrook Road (Contributing property, New Vernon Village District). Demolition delay ends May 2005. Owner plans to replace existing home with new construction.

Cusano – 77 Glen Alpin Road (Contributing property, New Vernon Village District). Demolition delay ended. Interested parties looked at the option of moving this historic residence to the New Vernon Village Redevelopment district, but found that the narrow width of Glen Alpin road did not allow the existing building to be easily moved due to the depth of that structure (front to back). Anticipated timing for demolition – when property sold.

Billings – 547 Tempewick Road (Contributing property, Tempewick District). Demolition delay ended. Property sold. New purchaser to demolish historic structure and build new home to plans previously approved by HPC.

King – 106 Lee’s Hill Road (Contributing property – Logansville District). Long term, Architect/developer to build new home incorporating existing residence consistent with plans approved by HPC. Short term, primary residence being renovated; renovations to include improvements and restoration consistent with historic character of primary residence.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION , HARDING TREE CONSERVATION COMMISSION , No reports this month

Civic Association Annual Dues

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.***

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 2005. 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 *January 28 and February 28*, 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 1st and 3rd Saturdays 1/22, 2/5, 2/19, 3/5, 3/19 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 st and 3 rd Tuesday)	6 PM	
Environmental Commission (1 st Tuesday)	7:30 PM	2/8
Seniors (2 nd and 4 th Thursday at Pres Church)	11 AM.....	
Planning Board (4 th Monday)	7:30 PM ...	1/24
Hist Preservation Comm (1 st Thursday)	8 PM	2/3
Board of Health (2 nd Thursday)	8 PM	2/10
Board of Education (2 nd and 4 th Monday)	7:30 PM ...	
Board of Adjustment (3 rd Thursday)	7:30 PM ...	1/20, 2/17
Township Committee (1 st and 3 rd Wed)	8 PM	
Shade Tree (2 nd Monday) 3 PM	3/14	
Harding Twp Civic Association	7:30 PM	2/7