

**September 2007**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Annual Fire Department Auction Saturday, September 29th**

The New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department will hold their 55th Annual Auction on **Saturday, September 29th** at the Firehouse on Village Road at 9:00 AM sharp, rain or shine.

**FRIENDS OF THE HARDING TOWNSHIP LIBRARY - THE ANNUAL JAZZ CONCERT AND "WE'RE BOOKIN' BICYCLE" TOUR - SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 30TH.**

Enjoy an afternoon of cycling through scenic Harding Township and then join friends and family for The Annual Jazz Concert, 3PM (children's concert); 4:30-6:30 PM, Eric Mintel Jazz Quartet, on the lawn of The Kirby Municipal Building. Tickets to Concert: \$15, \$30, \$50. Pre-register to Friends of Library, Box 517 New Vernon NJ 07976, or pay at door. Tickets for Tour: \$20, \$25, \$10. Those who would like to help out or have experience with cycling events, please contact either Leslie Reed at (973) 425-0466, MJ Turnbull at (973) 377-3866 or email us at [cycleharding@aol.com](mailto:cycleharding@aol.com).

**The Harding Township Historical Society** Invites its members to an evening of wine, cheese and American Country Music by Steve Zackowski and "The Monday Night Jam" on **Friday, October 12 from 7:30 to 9 p.m.** at the Tunis-Ellicks House. No charge for admission. Call (973) 292-3661 for a reservation.

**THE LIBRARY**

**Rewarding P/T Opportunity at Harding Township Library!!**

Do you enjoy books and stimulating conversation? like to keep your finger on your community's pulse? If yes, consider joining the Harding Township Library staff. We are looking for a computer-literate, people-oriented bookworm who can commit 7-10 hours per week—slightly more during school holidays. We can work around your schedule and will train you on the computer system. Please call **973-267-8000 x 132**.

**Color My Diary...RED! Sunday, September 23 at 3:00-5:30 p.m.** Back by popular demand—local artist and author **Tine Graham** will conduct an inspiring workshop on creative diary writing for budding artists. Tine will showcase her series of colorful art books and demonstrate how to create and assemble your very own art diary. This workshop is intended for children age 9 or older and

their parents. Registration required, please, as space is limited.

**Evening Book Group...Wednesday, September 26 at 7:30-9:00 p.m.**

Welcome back, readers! This month's selection is Michael Chabon's acclaimed novel, *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, a historical mystery set in the frozen landscape of Sitka, Alaska. All are welcome to join the always stimulating and never predictable discussion! Book Group members are cordially invited to bring their ideas for future reading to this meeting, as we will be preparing the book list for the coming season.

**Library Closing: Saturday, September 29** because of the Auction. **4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Book Club** will start again in October. *Check at the Library and on the Web ([hardinglibrary.org](http://hardinglibrary.org)) to learn about future activities.*

**NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT Heads-up**

Auxiliary-sponsored "Home-made Soup Contest" Sunday Oct. 21, 5-6 PM, \$6  
Annual Children's Halloween Parade, Tuesday Oct 30, 7 PM

**Fundraiser Benefits Homeless Solutions, Inc.**

"SHOP FOR THE SHELTER" tickets entitle you to discounts at Country Mile stores on Oct. 12, 13, 14. Proceeds from these special shopping days will benefit Homeless Solutions, Inc, a private, non-profit organization serving the working poor and homeless of Morris County. Participating merchants are selling \$12 tickets that entitle the bearer to special discounts and offers at the designated businesses. Proceeds for the tickets go directly to Homeless Solutions, Inc. Tickets may be purchased at the participating merchants in advance or on the days of the special benefit shopping. For advance tickets or for further information, please call Carol Conger Vellekamp at (973) 539-9531.

**WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** announces that the 2007/2008 Hunting Season extends from September 8, 2007, bow hunting; through February 16, 2008. Hunting with firearms will take place in November and December. Bow hunting is permitted throughout the season.

The 2006/2007 deer harvest in Harding was 285, including 42 deer taken in the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge; last year was 337, including 94 in the Great Swamp. Deer/Motor Vehicle Accidents are 52 in 2005, 50 in 2006. The season was again concluded without any hunting accidents.

The deer harvest continues to decline, indicative of a reduction in the excessive deer population, confirmed by the decline in motor vehicle accidents. Progress is being made in bringing the deer population to levels considered healthy for the environment, but the problem is still not resolved. Wildlife experts assume that an acceptable level is

15-20 deer per sq. mile, compared to current estimate of 30-35.

#### **Hunting on Township Property**

As in prior years, the township has agreed to open the following properties to hunting or driving of deer as indicated:

Block 46 Lot 4.01	Bailey's Mill and Young's Road	driving
Block 35.01 Lot 18	Rt. 202/287 & Glen Alpin Road:	bow
Block 8 Lot 9.01	Margetts Field	bow hunting
Block 2 Lot 18	Waterman property	bow hunting
Block 23 Lot 1	Gatehouse property	bow hunting

#### **Hunting in Morris County Parks**

The Morris County Park Commission has expanded its Deer Management Program to include, among other sites, hunting in Loantaka Park. This season, the hunt is being organized by the Park Police. Hunters are expected to register with the police from 9/10 to 9/14 at the Park Police Cultural Center at 300 Mendham Road, Morristown, NJ 07960, telephone 973-326-7632.

#### **From the Harding Township Clerk**

The November General Election is on Tuesday, November 6, 2007. In order to vote in the election you must be registered to vote. If you are not currently registered to vote in Harding Township, the County must receive your application by October 15, 2007 in order to vote in the upcoming election. If you are unable to go to your polling place on Election Day, you may consider voting by Absentee Ballot. An application to vote by Absentee Ballot must be received by the County Clerk not later than 7 days prior to the election unless you apply in person up to 3 p.m. the day prior to the election. Both of the applications mentioned are available on line at [www.morriselections.org](http://www.morriselections.org) or in the Clerk's office for your convenience. REMINDER: If you receive a sample ballot for an individual who is no longer eligible to vote in Harding Township PLEASE return it to the County. Returns of sample ballots are the main way that the list of registered voters is purged.

**Harding Township Police** Urge Drivers, Parents & Children to Prepare for Back to School Safety. Please discuss safety issues with children. Parents should remind children about traffic, pedestrian and personal safety-related topics before putting their children on the school bus. The Police encourage parents to discuss with their children school bus safety tips: Children should have a safe place to wait for the bus, away from traffic and the street. Avoid roughhousing at bus stops; stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop. When being dropped off, children should exit the bus and walk ahead of it before crossing in front; children are seen best farther away from the bus. Children should be aware of traffic in the roadways around them, before they approach a

bus. Drivers are required to stop for school buses; however, not all drivers obey the law. Children should always look both ways!

### **HARDING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF HEALTH**

**FLU CLINICS** The Health Department expects to receive its full allotment of flu vaccine. A delivery date has not been established but residents can receive updated information by calling our Flu Clinic Hotline at 973-267-8000 ext. 190, after September 30.

### **RABIES CLINIC SATURDAY, Nov. 3, 2007 From: 10:00 to noon**

Harding Township in cooperation with the New Jersey State Department of Health and the Morris Township Health Department, will again offer a free Rabies Vaccine Inoculation for cats and dogs **at the Morris Township Woodland Road Firehouse, at 20 Dwyer Lane.** (Dwyer Lane is off South St.) Dogs whose rabies vaccination expires before October 31, 2008 must be vaccinated before a license can be issued for 2008.

### **New Vernon Garden Club News**

The New Vernon Garden Club has been recognized by the Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc. (GCNJ) for its horticultural contributions to the local community, and has been awarded as follows: The Garden Club of Mountain Lakes Silver Trophy for an outstanding project related to wildflower preservation - The Sarah Ortman Park; project chairmen are Laura Ascari, Alice Condon and Barbara Wilkerson. The Demarest Garden Club Silver Trophy for the highest rated yearbook (directory) for a large club; project chairman is Denise Bridgens-Collins. A Certificate of Merit with a Gold Seal for an Excellent Yearbook; project Chairman is Denise Bridgens-Collins. Both Carole Kurtz and Caron Menger received a special President's Citations.

### **Harding Alliance Against Substance Abuse Announcements**

Expert Panel: "*Empowering Parents with Knowledge and Skills*", Friday October 26<sup>th</sup>; 7:30PM at the Harding Township School. Representatives from law enforcement and Licensed Substance Abuse Professionals will answer questions in an informal open discussion. Free.

Harding Alliance is also sponsoring a community Family Dinner Night on Wednesday evening, October 24. HTS activities and homework will be structured to facilitate a 'night-in' for families, focusing on the importance of family time.

The critically-acclaimed HBO ADDICTION DVD and companion book *is available*

*in the Harding Library, New Vernon Pres Church and Green Village Methodist Church. Alliance meetings are always open to the public. Next meeting will be in the Guidance Office of the Harding Twp School at 8:45 AM on September 19, 2007. Questions? email [Judymotown@patmedia.net](mailto:Judymotown@patmedia.net).*

## **TOWNSHIP NEWS**

### **Township Committee – June 20, 2007**

Lanzerotti, Bartlett, Murray, Dinsmore, and Ward present.

#### **Ordinances and Resolutions** (unanimously approved unless otherwise noted)

**Resolutions TC-07-108** appointed **Judy Ward** to a three year term on the Open Space Trust Committee. Ned Ward abstained due to his relationship to Ms. Ward. **Resolution TC-07-109** appointed **Matt Sellitto** to the Historic Preservation Commission, to fill the unexpired term of Virginia Moriarty expiring December 31, 2008. **Resolution TC-07-115** authorized the Township's application for a municipal alliance grant of \$7,937 to fund drug and alcohol abuse education including the "DARE" program at the school. In response to a question from Ned Ward, Ms. McKane said the term of the grant requires that the Township match the grant with \$1,984 in cash and \$5,953 of in-kind services. Ms. McKane noted that the programs in Harding were very well run, based on her experiences with similar programs in other municipalities.

**Resolution TC-07-116** approved a professional services agreement with the law firm of Dorsey & Semrau for services as special counsel in matters regarding tax appeals at a rate of \$140 per hour plus expenses. John Murray noted that the Township has saved money recently by taking a more aggressive posture on tax appeal cases. Mr. Murray reported most pending litigation, including a tax appeal matter relating to the former AT&T headquarters property would be resolved soon.

**Resolution TC-07-118** authorized Township officials to accept a \$750,000 state grant for Glen Alpin (the grant must still first be signed by the governor). There was substantial discussion of the history of the grant, and of the Glen Alpin project. The Glen Alpin Conservancy is contributing \$19,000 to help secure a Morris County grant of \$60,000 that is also a necessary prerequisite for the larger state grant. Several members of the Township Committee expressed confidence that the county grant would be received. In response to a question from Roberta Shields, Mr. Lanzerotti confirmed that the acceptance of the state grant would not further restrict the flexibility of the Township in pursuing alternatives for Glen Alpin. Mr. Lanzerotti went on to say that the Township Committee was looking forward to receiving the report from

the Glen Alpin Steering Committee on alternatives for the project. Ned Ward stated that he thought the Township should dispose of Glen Alpin and that he didn't favor a long-term lease.

**Resolution TC-07-119** approved an additional \$15,000 for the Design Enterprises, Inc. contract for site supervision of the work on Glen Alpin (primarily the roof and related work) that is nearing completion. This addition would bring the total paid to DEI to \$83,000. Ms. McKane said that there was about three more weeks of work and the project was down to the punch list and that it was essential to have DEI on site managing the contractors. Mike Meade and Hesna Pfeiffer questioned whether the work would drag on longer given the history of the project. Ms. Pfeiffer asked that the Township Committee learn from the Glen Alpin project and write better contracts so that contractors would be held more accountable for their work and the Township would not be stuck paying for cost over-runs. In response to questions from the public, John Murray and Gail McKane commented that the public bidding process limited the Township's flexibility to hire contractors and that the low bid contractor that the Township must accept by law, was not necessarily the contractor that the Township would have hired had it had the choice. It also was mentioned that Glen Alpin's classification as a historical structure further limited the Township's flexibility by narrowing the pool of qualified contractors and thereby reducing competition and increasing costs.

**Ordinance 7-07** was introduced which would allow for capital spending in 2007 consistent with the previously released spreadsheet detailing the capital projects (see June Thumbnail). Mr. Murray noted that the three biggest items were \$125,000 for a new Township emergency communication systems, \$50,000 for road improvements and approximately \$50,000 at the municipal building for improvements to the HVAC and the building. The Township is evaluating communications systems to make sure that there would be good signal coverage and compatibility with Chatham's system.

**Ordinance 7-08** was introduced which would authorize the Township to issue bonds for up to \$450,000 to pave the municipal parking lot and provide for storm water drainage. Ms. McKane explained that while the project would be paid for over two years out of the capital surplus fund on a pay as go basis, it was a legal requirement to show that all the money was available before entering into any contracts for work. She said she did not anticipate that bonds would ever be issued to pay for the work and therefore the bond authorization would not have a cost. There were several questions from the public concerning the seemingly large expenditure for paving the parking lot. Ms McKane explained

that the project required a fair amount of engineering and design work and that meeting the storm water management requirements, increased the cost. She also said that the \$450,000 amount was intended to be an upper limit to ensure there was enough money for the project. Ms. Nergaard, the Township attorney explained that contractors bidding on municipal projects must pay workers "prevailing" wages which effectively means union wages, and this increases cost compared to what a private project might cost. In response to question from the public, Ms. McKane said that the cost of the parking lot project was also somewhat higher than it would otherwise be due to the additional work required by the new Library to be built on the site.

**Announcements/Reports/Presentations/Correspondence**

**Affordable Harding**

John Murray noted occupancy of the rental units was full. The Township is increasing rents by the maximum 3.8% allowed. This will raise an additional \$10,000 in income to the Township bringing the total rental income to \$287,000. The increase to renters will be on average \$35 per unit per month.

**Bayne Park**

Mike Meade, chairman of the ad hoc Bayne Park Committee reported that the Committee had a successful first meeting and that more were scheduled. The priorities appear to be removing three dead and dangerous trees, improving the ice skating rinks and sledding area. The two aerators are now working continuously to keep algae from forming in the pond.

Ms. McKane alerted the Township Committee to pending legislation in the state assembly that would amend the contractor laws to require that a municipality advertise the expected total cost of a given project before putting the project out to bid. One member of the public commented that such a requirement was nonsensical and would likely increase the cost of projects - Ms. Nergaard agreed.

**Township Committee Meeting July 18, 2007**

Present: Dr. Lanzerotti, Mr. Dinsmore, Mr. Ward, Mr. Murray, Mr. Bartlett

**Ordinances/ Flag Lots**

Ordinance 05-2007, the adoption of zoning regulations for flag lots, was discussed but withdrawn due to open issues and the need for additional changes. The new ordinance will permit the creation of new flag lots (up to 4) sharing one 'pole'. Similar flag lots have not been permitted since a 1985 ordinance eliminating them. There was discussion concerning the number of lots

per pole (4 or 5), how the pole will be counted towards lot coverage, and whether or not there should be one ordinance covering both new and pre-1985 flag lots. Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Ward, and Dr. Lanzerotti reside on flag lots.

#### **Eggert Property Purchase**

Ordinance 06-2007, authorizing the acquisition of Eggert property, was discussed but not upon due to open issues with the Trust for the Public Land, Harding Land Trust, and Morris County. Although the property will be purchased as a Harding Open Space property, the Township hopes to ultimately transfer ownership to the Federal government so that it can be added to the Jockey Hollow US National Park. The Township is working with Representative Frelinghuysen, as the transfer will require an act of Congress. The most recent plan was for the Township to transfer the ownership/stewardship of the Eggert Property to the Harding Land Trust until the Jockey Hollow transfer could be accomplished. This plan was rejected by Morris County, which was concerned that the Township was a stronger entity than the HTL and the proposed transfer was not identified in the original County grant application. When the acquisition goes through, the Township will be responsible for maintaining the property unless or until the Township transfers the property to Jockey Hollow.

#### **Capital Spending Ordinance**

Ordinance 07-2007, a capital ordinance authorizing public improvements was adopted. All spending will be funded by cash.

#### **Parking Improvements Bond**

Ordinance 08-2007, an ordinance authorizing the issuance of a bond to fund parking improvements was adopted. The authorization (approximately \$450,000) will be used for the construction of the Municipal building parking lot and driveway.

#### **Bayne Park Committee**

Mike Meade, chair of the Bayne Park Committee, gave an update on the committee's activities which primarily was to consider improvements and repairs to the two skating rings. Mr. Meade also discussed some suggestions as to how the park could play a bigger role in community such as place to hold outdoor concerts.

#### **Glen Alpin Strategy Committee**

Mr. Murray gave an update on the Glen Alpin Strategy Committee, which is analyzing the benefits and costs for the Township to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Glen Alpin disposition. Mary Prendergast, a member of the Glen Alpin Conservancy, a private fund raising group for Glen Alpin, expressed her concern that the issuance of an RFP will negatively impact the group's fund

raising efforts.

#### **New Library Building – Cupola Issues**

Susan Stahly, chair of the new library building committee, gave a presentation on the new library design showing drawings of the new building, the location of the new municipal parking lot, and the location of the new driveway. The proposed library plan will be reviewed by the planning board in August. The Township Committee brought up an objection with part of the design related to the roof-top cupola. According to several Committee members, Fred Kirby, a Harding citizen, did not like the cupola and wanted it removed from the design. Mr. Kirby's parents donated approximately \$1.4 million towards the construction of the municipal building, which was named in their honor. Mr. Kirby's parents also sold the land to the Township on which the municipal building (and future library) is located. Mr. Kirby has not made any financial contribution to the construction of the new library. All Township Committee members except from Mr. Bartlett were in favor of a lease term requiring that the new library is built without a cupola.

#### **Township Committee Meeting August 15, 2007**

Lanzerotti, Bartlett, Murray, Dinsmore and Ward were present.

Mr. Lanzerotti noted that a new fee ordinance would likely be introduced at the September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

***Ordinances and Resolutions*** (unanimously approved unless otherwise noted)

**Resolutions TC-07-132 and 133** accepted the 2006 audit and corrective action plan. Mr. Lanzerotti noted that this is the second year under the new auditor and the process was more rigorous than in the last years under the previous auditor. He stated that he continues to believe that a change in auditor every five to seven years is a good idea. The auditor specified the need for corrective action in three areas.

**First**, the Fixed Asset Ledger needs to be reviewed and updated. The Township will hire an appraisal firm to help the staff. According to Mr. Lanzerotti the issue arose at least in part from the change from the old insurance carrier to the Morris County Joint Insurance Fund ("JIF"). **Second**, all employees need to be bonded as required by law and they are now so bonded. **Third**, all Township departments that receive money must deposit such money within 48 hours. According to Mr. Lanzerotti, one department deposited a small amount of money during the year, probably less than \$12, but not within 48 hours as required. The Department has been notified and will comply.

**Resolution TC-07-139** approved the Bill List including the release of the remainder of the \$40,000 annual subsidy provided to the Library and monies to the school held on their behalf. Mr. Lanzerotti noted that Ms. McKane had

instituted a good budget tracking mechanism that was very useful in managing the finances of the Township. He went on to say that the Township was below budget in all areas except salaries where the Township was up to the budgeted amounts.

**Resolutions TC-07-140** approved a “tonnage grant” for the DPW for recycling. John Murray noted that Tracy Toribio had convinced the Township to handle its own recycling several years ago and that it not only saved cost but had been a money-maker for the Township since inception.

**Resolution TC-07-141** approved the name of “Pine Fields Lane” for a non-through street off of Glen Alpin near the cemetery.

**Glen Alpin Resolutions and Discussions**

**Resolutions TC-07-135 and 134** authorized the acceptance of a County grant for the HVAC system (\$78,100) and acceptance of a grant for architectural services (\$150,000), respectively. **TC-135** passed with Mr. Ward voting no and **TC-134** passed with Mr. Ward and Mr. Lanzerotti voting no. Before the vote, Mr. Murray read a statement in support of the resolutions and Mr. Lanzerotti recited the history of the discussions and actions that led to the application for the grants. No Township funds are required to accept the grants as the required matching amounts will be funded by the Glen Alpin Conservancy. A discussion ensued among the public and the Committee questioning where acceptance of the grants further obligated the Township to keep funding the project. The Township attorney responded that acceptance would not further restrict the Township's flexibility relative to restrictions already in place due to the previous acceptance of acquisition grants and restoration grants. Representatives of the Glen Alpin Conservancy, Mary Prendergast and Justine Kovacs said they had raised \$42,000 of the required \$57,025 matching funds and had two years to raise the remainder.

**Resolution TC-07-136** authorized the Township to accept the contract for the architect (Michael Calafati) in an amount not to exceed \$150,000. Mr. Murray noted that he was more comfortable with the proposed contract than he was with the contract with the prior firm, Watson and Henry. The resolution passed with Mr. Ward and Mr. Lanzerotti voting no.

**Glen Alpin Strategy Committee**

Steven Balog reported on the Strategy Committee's latest thinking and asked the Township Committee for some guidance. He said that Glen Alpin was complicated by the various stakeholders involved in the project and the legal and regulatory restrictions that came from the various grants. He suggested the follow four approaches: (1) finish the parts of the project necessary to get the

project where it could be “mothballed”; (2) continue on the current path under the so called \$968,000 cap; (3) Draft a Request for Proposal (“RFP”) to begin a formal and open process to solicit interest from outside parties in alternative uses for the property. He estimated it could cost \$50,000 to create an RFP and there was no guarantee that any proposal would ultimately be acceptable to all the stakeholders; and (4) auction the property. The sense of the Township Committee seemed to be toward option (3) and they decided after much discussion to meet in a closed session with certain members of the Strategy Committee and to hire a special counsel to advise the Committee (Ms. Nergaard, the Township Attorney, is conflicted as she also represents Morris County) on the constraints to their flexibility in pursuing various alternatives. After this initial process, the Township Committee seemed to favor soliciting input from the other interested parties and the public on how to proceed.

#### **Announcements/Reports/Presentations/Correspondence**

##### ***Administrative Updates***

Mr. Lanzerotti said that Linda Peralta was working on a new administrative fee construct. Ms. Peralta asked that the Committee consider what the guiding principal should be for setting fees. She offered the following three general philosophies (i) fees should be set to fully recover the cost to the Township of providing the service; (ii) the Township should fully subsidize the fees or (iii) some sharing of the costs between the Township and the applicants. Ms. Peralta said she felt that the Township was not consistent in the fees it charged relative to the costs to provide the service. A simple example is that the charge to the public for black and white and color copies is the same. A discussion ensued that highlighted the subtleties of the subject especially when it is difficult to determine how the benefits of the activities that require fees are spread among the applicant and others.

##### ***Bayne Park***

Mike Meade, chairman of the ad hoc Bayne Park Committee reported that the Committee has had three meetings and that the dead willow trees had been removed and other improvements made. An analysis of the skating rinks has led to a recommendation to re-grade and re-pipe the skating ponds for an estimated cost of \$15,000 to \$18,000. This would be less than the \$60,000 project cost if it included a fabric liner. Mr. Meade felt that the lower cost project would still provide much improved ice by getting more water pressure to support the ice from below. He is working on getting additional bids on the project and asked the Township Committee to find money in the budget to complete the work before the skating season. The ad hoc Committee will also work on a long-term

maintenance plan for the park including a plan to take care of the memorial trees.

**Planning Board**, June/July/August meetings

**Hillside LLC** (Blanchard) proposed subdivision, on 2 existing properties on Glen Alpin Rd, Lot 8.02 and Lot 15, was approved. Four conforming building lots are created, all exceeding the 5-acre minimum required.

The **Crimi** subdivision hearing continued in the summer meetings, and will also be in the Sept 24 meeting. This is on Welsh Lane, "New Vernon Heritage" subdivision, Bl 49, lots 36 and 37. Originally 2 conforming lots, the lots were merged for a total acreage of 10.24 acres; the current zoning is 3 acre minimum. In the proposed new subdivision, since the existing house is large, this would be on 6.5 acres, and the new second lot would be 3.6 acres; however, the new lot as proposed lacks the space required for the building box 100'x100' and its frontage is about 4' short of the required 300'. Applicant is arguing that the subdivision presents no substantial detriment to the public good. The surrounding neighbors are vigorously opposing this argument.

The **Library** application was heard in the August 27 meeting, and site plan approved. Although the private fund raising effort is continuing, construction is expected to begin soon for the 8000ft<sup>2</sup> new building, projected to cost about \$4 million.

The "**Primrose Preserve**" application for a favorable recommendation to the Township Committee to **rezone 127 acres on Brook Drive South** was discussed at the July 23 meeting. No decision was made. A site visit is planned On Saturday October 6, from 9-10:30 am, at which members of the public are welcome. The issue of this application focuses on the rezoning of this parcel to permit 42 dwelling units (including 6 COAH units) in at least 24 separate buildings, some multistory with elevator access, some single dwelling units. The applicants have said this would be a market rate, age-restricted development, with somewhat smaller floor plans for each residential unit than that for "normal" single family housing. The project would provide a waste treatment system for the entire development as a whole, and water supply would be by new wells. Rezoning would involve revision of the Township Master Plan. Ultimate jurisdiction of any change would be by the Township Committee.

The Applicants are generating some limited grass-roots' support for this proposal, especially from neighboring property owners (Baileys Mill Rd, Mt Kemble Lake area) who are fearful that under the existing zoning, a new "mega-house" development would change the character of their individual properties.

Opponents of the application have pointed out that community vision and zoning issues should be community, not developer driven. However, there as yet has been very little official public discussion of this issue of critical importance to the entire community, especially in light of the Township's emphasis on its fragile environment and concerns about water resources which buttressed the recent change in the minimum lot size in RR to 5 acres from 3 acres. The property is in the RR zone and there has been indication that only 15 units could be supported even under the existing zoning, due to wetlands, flood plain, and other environmental constraints along the Primrose Brook watershed. **This application hearing will be continued at the September 24 and October 22 meetings of the Planning Board.**

**Harding Open Space Trust (HOST) Committee** – June and July, 2007  
Projects' Status – Anderson –Tempe Wick Rd: closing took place early September.  
Eggert – Route 202: the Township Committee heard the final reading of the required Ordinance in July. The Harding Land Trust will receive ownership of this property after adoption of the Ordinance and closing.  
Blanchard – Glen Alpin Rd: the Committee recognized the announcement of the donation of a small piece of wetland acreage adjacent to Bayne Park from the Blanchard family.  
Farmland Preservation – the Scaff, Haeberle and Devine properties have closed, all Lee's Hill Rd. A special educational acknowledgement and celebration is being planned for October 7 to include a special HOST brochure, a booth, educational material and a tour of some existing open spaces for Township residents.  
The Committee discussed both a process and some specific ideas to identify attractive, new property acquisitions across the Township.  
Finance and Stewardship - the Committee continued work towards an accurate, complete History of Acquisitions of HOST funded properties. The information will include previous acquisitions as well as farmland preservation properties and will be made broadly available.  
Gail McKane, Town Clerk, then presented the details and analyses of the current HOST Debt Status and Cash Balance and Projections. The analyses included the Glen Alpine debt and showed gross debt implemented by previous Bond Ordinances of \$7,969,000. This amount is reduced by several past and anticipated grants of \$4,282,250 yielding a net Open Space Debt of \$3,686,750. This amount is expected to be further reduced by \$1.6 million from current HOST funds for a net projected debt of \$2,086,750. Additionally, there is a loan from Green Acres of \$499,000 to be paid off by 2012.  
Currently, the HOST cash balance analysis, showing projected principle and interest payments, projects a minimal balance for 2007 but adequate future funding for new projects in 2008 and beyond. The Committee acknowledged that future funding at current levels will be required to assure preservation and stewardship of new land. The

Committee then voted unanimously (one abstention) to accept the financial analyses and to use available cash to identify and study attractive new projects. Ms. McKane was thanked and recognized for her helpful financial work.

Preservation Celebration - the Committee discussed alternatives and planning for a recognition celebration for Farmland Preservation properties. Justine Kovacs will lead the planning activity.

HOST Brochure – is being developed which will be descriptive and educational. It will feature description of the HOST mission and acquisitions including maps and photos.

Stewardship – work to complete the HOST Resource Book including maps and current Township land status was discussed. This information will enable future stewardship of owned properties and a current look at vacant lands. The important baseline study for property stewardship has begun.

The Committee then discussed leadership, future member nominations and the intention to move monthly meetings to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday evening beginning in September.

#### **Harding Township Environmental Commission (HTEC), July 2, 2007**

**Recycling Issues** Compact fluorescent bulbs are increasing in popularity – but few people know that they should be recycled. CF bulbs have a longer life and use less energy than incandescent bulbs, but also contain a small amount of mercury, a toxic substance. The mercury is not released unless the bulb is broken. CF bulbs should not be placed in the trash; store the bulbs unbroken, and take to the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority Household Hazardous Waste ("HHW") facility. More information, including the location of HHW facilities and the dates of upcoming HHW days, can be found at <http://mcmua.com/>. More information on the safe handling of broken fluorescent bulbs can be found at [www.epa.gov/mercury](http://www.epa.gov/mercury).

Concern was expressed regarding the lack of a recycling program at the Post Office, given the significant amount of paper/cardboard involved.

#### **Comments on Matters Before the Planning Board**

**Primrose Preserves** – a zoning change is being requested to permit more intense development than would otherwise be permitted on portions of the property. HTEC is concerned about the environmental impact of the proposal, and will be formally represented at the next Planning Board meeting. **Harding Township Library** – HTEC suggested that stormwater runoff from the proposed facility be collected and used to irrigate plantings around the building.

**Bayne Park** Concern was expressed regarding proposals to remove certain Dogwood trees and long grasses in the Park. Removal of the Dogwoods is being considered for the safety of children using sleds in the winter, but some were planted in memoriam. The areas of long grass may be unsightly to some, but serve as a deterrent to geese and filter the water entering Bayne Pond from the road.

#### **Board of Adjustment meeting, Board of Education/School News**

**Historic Preservation Comm, No reports**

**TOWNSHIP RECYCLING**

**Commingled Recyclables:** consists of all aluminum and tin cans, glass bottles, and only plastic bottles and containers with the Recycling symbol, and #1 or #2. Try to crush plastic bottle to conserve space. Please remember no plastic or paper bags.

**Commingled Mixed Paper recycling:** consists of all paper, cardboard, newspaper, office paper, magazines, and books. Please put loose or shredded paper in paper bag. Please flatten all boxes or fill with other paper products. **Other accepted items are** Batteries; automotive (car) and household (rechargeable accepted); Computers and all related peripherals, i.e. printers and monitors; Automotive and light truck tires, (on or off rim) and Propane tanks (BBQ size only) **The Hours of operation are every Wednesday** from 7AM. to 12noon (7– 9AM self service); and **Saturdays:** Sept 22, Oct 6, 20, Nov 3, 17.

**Civic Association News and Announcements**

**Civic Association:** THE DEADLINE FOR THE next issue OF THE THUMBNAIL is October 5. Current and past issues of Thumbnail, as well as the Directory are posted on our Website- check it out: <http://www.hardingcivic.org>. Send questions or comments about Thumbnail to editor, **email address: hesnaj@verizon.net**, or the Harding Township Civic Association, PO Box 72, New Vernon, NJ 07976.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**, meetings as noted.

Municipal Court (1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday)	4 PM
Municipal Court (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday)	11AM
Environmental Commission (1 <sup>st</sup> Monday)	7:30 PM
Seniors (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday)Chrst KingCh	11 AM
Planning Board (4 <sup>th</sup> Monday)	7:30 PM
Hist Preservtional Comm (1st Thursday)	8 PM
Board of Health (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday)	8 PM
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
Township Committee(1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed)	7:30 PM
Shade Tree (2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday)	3 PM
Harding Twp Civic Association	7:30 PM