

November 2007

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

The NVVFD Auxiliary is selling Unique New Vernon Totes, Great for gifts, shopping, carrying mail, books, groceries, toys, etc. All proceeds benefit the NVVFD. \$30, payable to NVVFD Auxiliary, on sale every Saturday morning at the Sunrise Market in New Vernon near Post Office, limited supply. For further information call Sue Heineman 973-267-7731 or Bernice Paton 973-539-5168. ***The NVVFD is the only independently owned Fire Department in NJ & does not use your tax dollars.***

Civic Ass News, Appeal for Annual Dues, Annual Mtg, WebsiteUpgrade

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

The Harding Township Civic Association serves an unusual role in the community. The goals of the Association have been to foster public interest in government, and to assist in achieving and maintaining ***good mutual understanding between citizens and public officials, to promote knowledge and appreciation of public problems through non-partisan publicity and to inform, arouse and lead public opinion toward the solution of public problems.*** To these ends, and for over 50 years, the Civic Association is staffed by volunteers who attend and report on many of the official doings of the Township government. These reports appear in The Thumbnail, the monthly newsletter which you are reading. Although the Civic Association asks you, and everyone living or working in the Township to join the Civic Association as a dues-paying member, the Thumbnail is mailed to every home in Harding Township, regardless of whether or not you contribute.

If you would like to participate more actively in the Civic Association, please let us know who you are. We are currently soliciting nominations for new members to the Board of Trustees. This group meets monthly. All members make a commitment to cover a Township meeting, sometimes as infrequently as bimonthly, sometimes semi-monthly, take notes on the proceedings, then send in a write up to the Thumbnail. By covering and disseminating information on the workings of the Township government, you serve others who cannot attend meetings, but who are vitally interested. If you are interested, send an Email to the editor, hesnaj@verizon.net, or write The Harding Township Civic Association, PO Box 72,

New Vernon, NJ 07976, or come to the next meeting, at Kirby Hall, **7:30 PM, Monday December 3.**

The **Civic Association Annual Meeting will be Monday February 4, at 7:30 PM**, in the Township Hall.

Suggestions for Civic Association Website Upgrade

The Civic Association is planning an upgrade to our **website**, www.hardingcivic.org, and welcome suggestions by Harding residents concerning what features they would like supported in the new site.

In conjunction with the Thumbnail, the mission of www.hardingcivic.org is to provide Harding with timely information about community announcements, community events, and transparency in government activities. The site provides access to community information not practically available elsewhere. The current website includes a listing of **community announcements**, a **community event calendar**, **electronic versions of the Thumbnail** (including back issues), online **special reports** on a variety of Harding matters, as well as information about the Civic Association.

We would be interested in hearing any comments about our website including likes, dislikes, and requests for new features or functionality to be considered for the new site. Please contact Alf Newlin at alf.newlin@verizon.net with all comments.

Election results: In the general election November 6, Jim Rybka, unopposed, was elected to the Township Committee. Township voters rejected 3 out of the 4 state ballot questions, including the Open Space question, 528 to 484; this question did pass, however by the state-wide total. The only question passing locally was that relating to abolishing the word "idiot" from the NJ constitution.

THE LIBRARY

Story Time with Lynn Hughes: Wednesdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Designed for two- and three-year-olds, this program takes youngsters on an interactive exploration of our community and environment. Meet in Court Room, Municipal Building. **November 21:** *Families Near and Far*.

November 28: *Native American Stories*.

Children's Book Clubs. Two book clubs, one for 4th-grade students and another for 5th-6th-graders, are slated to begin late November. Students will meet twice a month to enjoy and discuss age-appropriate books. Reluctant readers as well as confirmed bookworms will love the literary circles format! Contact the Library for information (973-267-8000X132).

Evening Book Group: Wednesday, November 28th, 7:30 p.m. Harding Township

Municipal Building. November's selection is *The World without Us*, Alan Wiseman's intriguing look at the impact of humans on the earth, and what it would be like if humankind disappeared. A fascinating and thought-provoking read.

Changes: On October 31, the Library bid a fond farewell to our long-time patron and amiable Library assistant, **Don Hinkle**, who has moved to Martha's Vineyard. We wish Don all the best and hope the Island libraries will have an opportunity to benefit from his talents as we did. ~ In turn, we are delighted to welcome our newest staff member, **Anabela Da Luz**, who will be assisting at the Circulation Desk on a part-time basis. A native of Angola, Anabela taught elementary school there and in South Africa. After coming to the U.S., she earned an M.A. in Art Education and taught in Newark's elementary school system. Anabela and her husband, Josef, have lived in Harding for five years.

From the Friends of the Library: Harding Township Library to benefit from the sale of Justine Westhead's art. La Galerie du Bel Event, the impressionist art gallery of New Vernon, will be donating 20% of the purchase price of every work of art sold through December 31st to Friends of the Harding Township Public Library. The works of artist Justine Westhead have been showcased with the Societe Nationale des Beaux Arts at their annual Salon at the Louvre. Additional information can be found by inquiring at the Library, La Galerie du Bel Event, or by visiting www.beleventgallery.com. The gallery is located at 4 Village Rd; phone 908-451-5738.

New Vernon Garden Club (NVGC) News: Members of the New Vernon Garden Club will meet on Thursday, December 6 at the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon to make bows and wreaths. Following this workshop, they will bedeck the village for the holidays. For information about the club and reservations, please call Patti Wood at (973) 425-0878.

Wildlife Management Committee will meet December 4, 5PM, Kirby Hall

Harding Alliance Against Substance Abuse Announcements

Please see the new website is <http://hardingalliance.hardingnj.org>. On it is our meeting schedule, mission statement, useful links to substance abuse prevention websites, current programming and more. to attend. *Harding Alliance meetings are always open to the public. Questions? email Judymotown@patmedia.net. Our next meeting will be in the Guidance Office of the Harding Township School at 8:45 AM on January 16, 2008.*

TOWNSHIP NEWS

Township Committee – October 17, 2007

Mr. Lanzerotti, Mr. Dinsmore, Mr. Murray and Mr. Ward of the Township Committee were in attendance. Susan Kimball, Township Planner was present as was Ms. Negaard, Township Attorney and Ms. McKane, Township Administrator.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution TC 07-154. Bill list approved unanimously after a question by Mr. Ward on what appeared to be an increase in a professional service fee paid to Chris Allyn. Ms. Negaard and Ms. McKane explained that public budgeting rules allow only a portion of a budgeted item to be reflected until a final budget for the year has been approved. This makes comparisons between periods difficult. They confirmed that there was no material change in the fee between years.

Resolutions TC 07-155-158. These resolutions releasing performance bonds and escrows were approved unanimously as a group.

Ordinance 12 – 2007 – Flag Lots. John Murray started the discussion by noting that the Planning Board was being asked to look more closely at ground water and coverage issues, but that their review would have no impact on the Flag Lot Ordinance.

Mr. Ward asked why the “staff” of a Flag Lot was not included for the purpose of determining allowable building coverage, as owners pay taxes on the staff too. Ms. Kimball discussed the reasoning and said that the proposed Ordinance was similar to the old Flag Lot Ordinance pre 1985. Ms. Kimball argued that if the “staff” was included in determining the size of the building permitted, then the possibility existed for some very large houses (relative to the effective building lot) to be built, particularly where the “staff” represented a large percentage of the total lot size.

There was some public discussion on the history of Flag Lots and why they were disallowed beginning in 1985. Ms. Olcott and Mr. Lanzerotti noted that Flag Lots were banned after abusive use by developers including the development of Wildlife Run off of Pleasantville Road. They agreed that it was a mistake to get rid of Flag Lots. Ms. Kimball maintained that the new Ordinance was better written than the 1985 version. The Ordinance was adopted unanimously, with Mr. Ward abstaining because he lives on a Flag Lot.

Announcements and Reports

Web-site

Mr. Lanzerotti announced that Gail McKane was investigating the possibility of posting Township Committee meeting minutes on the Township’s web-site. He noted that it is not a trivial matter to work out the process of posting so as to minimize the cost and staff time involved. It was the sense of the public that this would be a much more convenient way to access the information.

COAH

Susan Kimball said she anticipated attending a meeting on COAH (Coalition on affordable Housing) in early December and would update the Township Committee on the impact on Harding of any regulatory changes.

Detour

The replacement of the concrete walls along Route 202 between Glen Alpin and Morristown will require a detour of northbound traffic (between 10:00 AM and 8:00 PM for 120 days) beginning in March 2007. Traffic will be routed from 202 to Glen Alpin to Blue Mill to James Street. While the Township Committee said they expressed strong concerns to the County about the negative impact of the detour on Harding, they saw little hope of changing the plans.

Bayne Park

Mike Meade updated the Township Committee and the public on the work planned for Bayne Park. One issue is the placement and marking of "memorial trees" in the park. John Murray committed to getting an inventory of memorial trees in the park and around the Township that would constitute a permanent record to be kept in Kirby Hall. Evidently, some memorial trees are not properly marked and others may need to be moved to better locations.

Records Management

Linda Peralta, Township Clerk reported on her efforts to get training and resources to improve Township records management. The issue of how to store and organize municipal records and make them available to public is an issue facing all municipalities. According to Ms. Peralta, there is \$50,000 of grant money available (with no matching funds required) but is dependent on coordination with a Morris County records management project. The Committee approved Ms. Peralta's plans to pursue the project.

NJ Transit Parking

Marshall Bartlett and Carl Meister have been working on options for Harding residents to get parking near the train to NYC. There is an upcoming meeting that Ms. McKane will follow up on.

Joint Insurance Fund (JIF)

There was discussion on this Morris County program and the possibility of a conflict given the pending sale of Commerce Bank to Toronto Dominion Bank that might affect the administrator of program, PERMA.

Glen Alpin

In response to a question by Mike Meade, Ms. McKane noted that the special counsel recently hired by the Township had met with stakeholders, but was still early in the process.

Harding Township Committee, November 7, 2007

Attending: Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Dinsmore, Dr. Lanzerotti, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Ward.

Special Executive Session Prior to the regular meeting, there was an executive session regarding Glen Alpin.

Future Meetings

- The 2nd meeting in November will be held on Monday, November 19th, due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Township debt restructuring will be on the agenda during this meeting.
- On November 26th, there will be a joint meeting with the Planning Board concerning COAH regulations.
- The first meeting in December will be held on Monday, December 3rd.

Resolutions

The committee passed a resolution authorizing a \$50,000 PARIS (Public Archives and Records Infrastructure Support) grant application that would fund work related to a strategic plan for Township records management and archiving.

Ordinances

The Township Committee took action on the following ordinances

13-07	There was a public hearing on Ordinance 13-07, a minor amendment of the zoning map. This ordinance was previously introduced but had to be reintroduced due to inadequate notice issues. Ordinance 13-07 was passed.
14-07	Ordinance 14-07, amending the Township fee schedule, was introduced. The fee schedule lists the fees for Township services including fees related to administration, the municipal court, development, pets, food establishments, water/sewer, construction, and land use. A majority of the changes have to do with the fees related to planning board fees, alarm systems, club licenses and access to copies of Township records. Mr. Ward commented that he thought some of the fees were excessive and that others were not practical to enforce. The examples Mr. Ward noted were the fees associated with the installation of dishwasher, washing machines, or water heaters. He recommended that the overall fee schedule should be reviewed in the near future. Dr. Lanzerotti agreed and thought that this topic could be addressed in 2008. A public hearing on the amended fee schedule will be held on December 3 rd .

Announcements & Presentations

The following were discussed during the meeting:

- The search for a new superintendent of the Harding Township Schools is in progress. The current superintendent, Dennis Pallozzi, will be retiring at the end of the school year.
- Dr. Lanzerotti reported that he had been contacted by Kevin Duffy, a principal of Primrose Partners, who requested an informal meeting with Dr. Lanzerotti.

- According to Dr. Lanzerotti, Mr. Duffy had said that Primrose Partners was one of the largest land owners in Harding, and wanted to have a meeting to discuss development related matters. After consulting with the Township attorney, Dr. Lanzerotti declined the meeting, considering that it was not advisable to meet on such a basis. Mr. Murray also noted he was contacted also, but declined to meet as well. Primrose Partners has proposed Primrose Preserve, an environmentally sensitive, age restricted, 32-unit single family home complex. A plan to build Primrose Preserve was turned down by the Planning Board last month.
- The Township Committee congratulated Jim Rybka, who recently won election to the Township Committee and whose term begins in January.
 - Mr. Ward gave an update on the status of the Mt. Kemble Plaza Complex, a proposed recreation area being built by Morris Township. Mr. Ward noted that the complex will not contain any ball fields, but will contain fields for soccer and field hockey. The complex will require a zoning change from Harding. As part of Harding's support for the complex, Mr. Bartlett noted that he would like Morris Township to consider Harding's needs with regard to commuter parking.
 - Ms. McKane noted that the Farm, Harding's affordable housing complex, won an award from the County Human Relations Commission. Ms. McKane attended a tenants meeting for the complex, and reported that the tenants were happy with the complex.
 - Ms. McKane reported on the Ten Towns meeting. According to Ms. McKane, the Ten Towns organization is updating its objectives and mission statement. Historically, the Ten Towns organization was mostly concerned about water quality and water management issues. The Township Committee discussed whether or not the Township was receiving enough benefit for participating in the organization, considering that membership cost is about \$12,000 annually (the highest membership cost category) and that the State DEP water regulations have become strict and supersede most local regulations. Harding's membership agreement in Ten Towns expires in 2009.
 - The Township attended an open space meeting in Chatham Township concerning the creation of a bike route associated with the Great Swamp. The Township Committee expressed concerns with the plan as the planned route utilized roads that may not be safe for family cyclists and were not all that close to the Swamp.
 - The Township and the Library are still negotiating the proposed lease for the new Library.
 - The Five Mile Route 202 detour through Harding will begin in December and is expected to last 120 days or less. The detour is for north bound traffic and will go from Glen Alpin Road to Blue Mill Road, Blue Mill Road to James Street, and James Street to Harter Road. The Township had previously complained to the

State about the proposed detour route and duration. The committee also enlisted the support of Harding's State representatives who wrote a letter to the DOT asking that the detour be conducted to minimize disruption to Harding's residents.

Executive Session Concerning the Elimination of Staff Positions

The Township conducted an unusual "open" executive session regarding the elimination of Township positions. Unlike the typical executive sessions which are closed to the public, the public may attend an open executive session but is not permitted to participate or ask questions. The subject of the session was a proposal by the Township Finance Committee to reduce Township expenses by eliminating three staff positions. The Finance Committee is comprised of Mr. Murray and Mr. Ward.

Mr. Murray began the session reviewing the budget increases for 2006 and 2007 which were 4.6% and 6.1% respectively, and the current projected increase for the 2008 budget, which is approximately 7%¹. The budget increase is due to several factors including increases in employee pension expenses, health care benefits, insurance premiums and fuel costs as well as debt service for affordable housing. According to Mr. Murray, the Township has received complaints about the past spending (and resultant tax) increases from residents. Another large increase was not acceptable and therefore the Township had to reduce spending. Mr. Murray said that approximately one third of the budget were 'non-staff' related but could not be reduced much further. The remaining budget is staff related and that the Finance Committee proposed eliminating several staff positions.

The Township's attorney, Maryann Nergaard, requested Ms. Peralta, the Township Clerk and who is responsible for taking meeting minutes and administers meeting documents, to stop taking the minutes because part of the proposal involved Ms. Peralta's employment. The assistant to the Township Clerk resumed taking minutes. [The executive session was held as an open meeting at the request of Ms. Peralta. Ms. Peralta had been informed in advance that the executive session could affect her employment, and therefore she had the right to request that the meeting be conducted in public.]

Mr. Murray outlined the proposal which involved eliminating three staff positions as follows:

- Eliminate the full time clerk position which would be consolidated with other positions. The clerk position reports directly to the Township Committee. Ms. Peralta's statutory term of employment expires at the end of this month.

¹ According to the 2007 Municipal Budget, total expenditures for the Township were projected to be about \$6.6 million. A 7% increase would be about \$460,000. Inflation (as measured by CPI Northeastern region) is about 2.4% annually.

- Eliminate, by attrition, one of the five Township police sergeant positions. Currently there is an opening for police lieutenant. One of the sergeants would be promoted to lieutenant.
- Put on hold, at least until mid-next year, if not later, the effort to fill a currently open DPW position.

Mr. Murray estimated that the proposal would result in a net savings of \$286,000 annually, with an additional pension cost reduction in 2009 of \$28,000. The Township sought to reduce total staffing down to the 2002 level, and down from a high in 2005 of 49.

Ms. Nergaard told the Township Committee that if Ms. Peralta's employment were continued, Ms. Peralta would have "tenure" in the clerk position. Due to meeting restrictions related to the State's "Sunshine laws", only the two members of the Finance committee, Mr. Murray and Mr. Ward, were familiar with the terms of the proposal prior to the meeting. Dr. Lanzerotti asked the other Township Committee members their thoughts concerning the proposal. Mr. Bartlett stated that although he supported the parts of the proposal regarding the police and DPW positions, he did not have enough information or enough time concerning the elimination of the clerk position and therefore could not support it. Mr. Dinsmore agreed with Mr. Bartlett. Dr. Lanzerotti spoke at length concerning the responsibilities he had to Harding's tax payers, residents, and employees and that these responsibilities had to be balanced. Although he too had not had an opportunity to study the proposal prior to the session, Dr. Lanzerotti believed that the Finance Committee had done a thorough analysis and he would trust their recommendation. The Township Committee ended the executive session.

Dr. Lanzerotti resumed the open session by asking Ms. Nergaard to frame a resolution for vote by the Township Committee that would implement the proposed staff reductions. Prior to voting on the resolution, Ms. Peralta was permitted to make a statement. Joseph Bell, Ms. Peralta's attorney, spoke on her behalf, noting the Township Committee consider that Ms. Peralta had many years of outstanding service to the Township and that her employment should not be eliminated due to tenure considerations. Ms. Peralta has worked for Harding Township since June 2001. The resolution passed 3 to 2 with Messrs. Lanzerotti, Murray, and Ward voting in favor and Messrs. Bartlett and Dinsmore voting against.

BOARD OF EDUCATION, October 8, 22

Much of discussion focused on issues related to the upcoming search for a new superintendent to replace Dr. Pallozzi, retiring at the end of the school year. Ms. Joann Boring from the NJ School Board Association (NJSBA) presented a summary of the services that they provide to aid the BOE in conducting the recruiting process and then she laid out some typical timelines to be considered for the various stages

of the interviewing process: December 9th and January 13th are the two dates that are traditionally used for almost all of the advertisements for NJ state education job opportunities. Ideally, the BOE will have the superintendent accept the position by May 1st in order to have them on board by July 1st.

At the Oct 22nd meeting the agenda focused on discussing what the responsibilities of the new superintendent would be and whether the position would be shared with another school within the district. This discussion, which was lead by Regina Egea, also considered additional modifications such as creating lead teacher positions to oversee responsibilities of the two individual school building such as discipline, attendance and day to day activities, creating new potential reporting structures and /or potentially adding a Jr Principal. Ultimately the BOE stated that there were no good examples of sharing a superintendent or principal and so the new position would remain a full time position and not be shared with another school. Some of the other details were discussed at length but were not decided on at this meeting. The next step for the BOE is to form a search committee and define exactly what they are looking for in the new superintendent. In preparation for this the BOE is inviting the public and the Harding Staff to a forum to solicit input on this matter. At the upcoming **December 3** meeting, the agenda will include the Madison contract Sending/Receiving Relationship; enrichment update, Library/Media update, and Language arts progress report.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, October 18

Application #BOA-16-07 Gerald and Lucille Crotty , 2 Miller Rd, Block 13, lot 8. Variance granted to permit enlargement of nonconforming residence by construction of two additions. The building area ration will be increased to 3.23% from the permitted 3% despite the minimum front setback of less than 150'; the front setback will be 71.4'

Application #BOA-19-07 The Hartington J. Trust, 86 Village Rd, Block 15 lot 15, granted variance from the 10% maximum lot coverage ratio of 10% to 12.9%.

Application #BOA-14-07 Donell and Suzanne Segalas, 88 Village Rd, Block 15, lot 15, granted variance to authorize prior enlargement of a patio from the setback requirement of 100' to the new side yard set back of 92'.

Harding Open Space Trust (HOST) Committee – October 10, 2007

Loren Pfeiffer was elected Chairman of the HOST Committee, succeeding Isobel Olcott. Suzanne Engel is to be recommended to the Township Council for membership on the Committee representing a linkage to the Harding Land Trust.

Projects' Status – the Anderson property transaction has closed and work is commencing to establish a baseline for future stewardship of this attractive land.

Eggert – continues to experience delays toward conclusion and closing. There is

currently a title question related to access to water and springs on the land. Legal and other work will continue to bring this property to closing soon.

Blanchard – a donation of land adjacent to Bayne Park by the family has been completed.

Glen Alpin – the Township has hired an attorney to examine contractual obligations and future alternatives related to the past commitments and acquisition of the property. Meanwhile, HOST voted to recommend to the Township Committee that up to 10% of revenue received in 2008 be used to service the debt associated with Glen Alpin estate.

Finance and Stewardship – The Committee was informed that the “History of HOST Acquisitions” analyses is very close to completion and will be available for publication and distribution thereafter. A poster illustrating Harding open space properties that was exhibited across the street from the Firehouse on Sept 29, is on display at Township Kirby Hall, 2nd floor.

HOST spent considerable time generating and evaluating ideas for new preservation projects over the next years. Finally, the Committee was encouraged to help inform the Harding public about the New Jersey Ballot Question #3 which voters will decide on November 6. The Question relates to \$200 million replenishment of State funding for future land preservation programs. (Note added post meeting: Harding voters rejected this measure; it passed in the state-wide election.)

Planning Board, October 22

The request by **“Primrose Preserve”** for a favorable recommendation to the Township Committee to **rezone 127 acres on Brook Drive South** was **refused**, following spirited public discussion. All members of the board who were present voted against the application except member Virginia Moriarity, who abstained.

In a letter published November 8 in the newspaper “Observer Tribune”, Planning Board Chair **Carol Conger Vellekamp** summarized the meeting as well as earlier meetings held in which this application was discussed. Excerpts from Vellekamp’s letter follow:

“First, the most recent meeting was the third in a series of meetings that the Planning Board has had specifically on the Primrose Preserve project. In the previous two meetings the developers and their professionals were given liberal time to present their concepts.

“This third meeting was billed to the public and the developers as an opportunity to hear from the public. Even given that goal, the developers and their professionals were given time at the beginning of the meeting to repeat and add to information that had already been presented both orally and in packets provided at the first meeting.

Second, and this was clearly mentioned in the most recent meeting, there is nothing in Harding's ordinances that would prevent the developers from doing what they are proposing with the single exception of dramatically exceeding the density limits enacted a few year ago to preserve and protect Harding's ground water resources. In the most recent concept plan presented to the Planning Board, the developers were proposing 32 housing units on acreage that the developer testified would only support 15 houses - more than double the density allowed by ordinance.

"That increase in density would require a significant change to Harding's Master Plan, a plan that has made Harding one of the most desirable living environments in Northern New Jersey.

"Third, the protection of environmental resources generally and the Great Swamp and its watershed in particular are core elements in Harding's Master Plan. Harding's storm water management plan is one of the toughest in the state and has served as a model for other towns. Harding's septic regulations exceed state standards by a significant margin. . . Over the years, Harding has steadily lowered development density and impermeable coverage limits throughout the township, adopted tree protection measures, and required conservation easements in environmentally sensitive areas, all of which are intended to preserve the township's traditional rural character and protect its environmental resources. Increasing density is exactly opposed to Harding's Master Plan goals. Reasonable people are certainly known to disagree on "best practices" for environmental resources protection and preservation, but for a newspaper specifically reporting local events to not even attempt to provide balance is very discouraging."

In other matters before the Board, application PB-09-07, Peter **Frelinghuysen**, Jr. for amendment to a previously approved Preliminary and Final Site Plan on Block 22, Lots 2, 3, 4, 4.01 & 5, was set for site inspection. Public hearing will continue November 26. (EDITOR NOTE: Last month's Thumbnail had an article under the Historic Preservation Committee report that erroneously characterized this application as new; in fact, the approvals to subdivide were granted 10+ years ago)

At the September 24 meeting, the **Crimi** subdivision request was denied; as lacking the necessary frontage and the building box requirements for subdivision. The property is on Welsh Lane, "New Vernon Heritage" subdivision, BI 49, lots 36 and 37. The surrounding neighbors had vigorously opposed the application.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION, October 2007

No meeting of HPC was held in November.

From the Construction office : 8 Sycamore Road Block 12, Lot 13 Sheeleigh. The Commission reviewed plans for the construction of a single family residence, barn and pool house presented by Ms. Sheeleigh. Concerns regarding the large

sycamore trees on the property were addressed and the Ms. Sheeleigh stated that she has no intention of removing the trees on her lot. There was discussion about reusing materials from the existing house. There is an architectural review committee for the subdivision off of Sand Spring Road. The HPC commented that the height and scale of the planned construction are appropriate and the placement of the buildings is sympathetic to the topography of the lot. The commission also commented that the stone proposed for the pool/guest house is not endemic to the area and is usually used for walls or foundations.

From the Board of Adjustment – 42 Woodland Road, Block 12 Lot 3 Bugen. No comments were made however design guidelines were emphasized in a response.

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:** Dec 8 and Dec 22.

Civic Association News and Announcements

Civic Association: **THE DEADLINE FOR THE next two issues OF THE THUMBNAIL is December 7 and January 11.** Current and past issues of Thumbnail, as well as the Directory are posted on our Website- **Also on the website is a town-wide events calendar.** 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 st and 3 rd Tuesday)	4 PM
Municipal Court (2 nd and 4 th Friday)	11AM
Environmental Commission (1 st Monday)	7:30 PM
Seniors (2 nd and 4 th Thursday)Chrst KingCh	11 AM
Planning Board (4 th Monday)	7:30 PM
Hist Preservation Comm (1stThursday)	7:30 PM
Board of Health (2 nd Thursday)	8 PM
Board of Education (2 nd and 4 th Monday)	7:30 PM
Board of Adjustment (3 rd Thursday)	7:30 PM
Township Committee(1 st and 3 rd Wed)	7:30 PM
Shade Tree (2 nd Monday)	3 PM
Harding Twp Civic Association (1 st Monday)	7:30 PM