

June/ July 2008

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Township Annual Memorial Day Celebration

Mary Van Kirk was cited as Citizen of the Year, for over 30 years of service to the community. Quoted from the recognition speech: "Mary is blessed with incredible energy, wisdom, and strength, qualities which make her the obvious 'go to person' whenever a need or problem arises in any context. She gives generously of her time and talents and does so with grace, humility, and an absolute dedication to making this world better, kinder, and more equitable. There is no task too minor or too large for her to take on. Although she is a consummate team player, her leadership abilities are second to none." She has taken the initiative in many different projects, including mobilizing Harding merchants and volunteers in support of the annual "Country Mile" shopping event benefiting Homeless Solutions. She has chaired the annual blood drive in Harding for the Red Cross for many years, and served several terms as Board member of Mt Kemble Lake Assn, the Harding Township Historical Society; and was a public member of the Morris District Attorney Ethics Committee, appointed by the NJ Supreme Court. She is also active in the Presbyterian Church activities and organization.

Winners of the essay: "What personal traits or characteristics do you believe are most important for any candidate for President of the United States?" were:

- 1st-2nd grades - Joey Feuerstein
- 3rd-4th grades - Brandon Bernstein
- 5th-6th grades - Emily Saulnier
- 7th-8th grades - Emma Cotton

Harding Township Municipal Offices Summer Hours Schedule: Effective July 7th through August 29th, the Harding Township Municipal Offices will be open 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday through Thursday and 8:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. on Friday.

From the Tax Collector: Reminder. the last day for payment of real estate taxes in Harding Twp will be **August 11, 2008 for 3rd Qtr.**

THE LIBRARY

Summer Reading Program: Catch the Reading Bug!

Come to the Library to enroll your children, ages 2 to 12, in our popular summer program designed to foster a love of reading. Each child will receive

a folder to decorate and a packet with time log, incentive game, puzzles, and coloring pages. Completed time logs earn a prize and a bug sticker on the bulletin board. Don't worry if your child can't read yet—there is a program for children who are read to by their parents.

Children with school reading lists should bring them to the Library, where we can help to request books online. Older children who can answer questions about the book they've completed (an oral book report) are eligible for a bonus prize! We have planned special events, including an end-of-summer Spelling Bee. So stop by the Library and *Catch the Reading Bug*—we think reading is a picnic!!

Adult Book Group plans to continue through the summer. June's selection, *The Secret Lives and Many Sorrows of Josephine B.* by Sandra Gulland, is a riveting historical novel about the early life of Josephine Bonaparte. For more details, call the Library: 973-267-8000 X 132.

Are you clocking progress of the Library's Enriching Our Community campaign at the corner of Blue Mill and Sand Spring Roads? We hope that you will be inspired to help us push the arrow to the top! Detailed information about the campaign is on the Library's Web page: hardinglibrary.org. Also, numerous helpful links and direct access to the shared catalog of Morris County libraries are displayed. Keep current; keep checking!

HARDING TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Help Line: 2-1-1 or www.nj211.org is New Jersey's help line and connection to community services. The call is free, confidential, and service is available 24/7. The help line will connect residents with the most appropriate and available resources to find assistance for most problems.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC): The MRC was established by the Morris County Office of Health Management to recruit and organize medical volunteers to assist local health departments during a public health emergency. MRC units provide health professionals and others with a way to volunteer their time and skills to assist their community in a disaster. To become part of the Harding Township Health Department MRC team, register at www.njmrc.nj.gov. For further information, call Pat Russomano, RN at 973/267-8000, extension 148.

Flu Clinic Hotline: The hotline will be activated September 1, 2008. The Health Department is planning to have two fall clinics, free of charge, for residents 65 years and older and those with a chronic illness that is documented by a note from a health care provider. Dates are yet to be determined. **The hot line number is 973/267-8000, Extension 190.**

FOCUS on Harding Open Space Trust (HOST)

(This article provided to the Thumbnail from the Harding HOST committee. It describes the mission, history and achievements of HOST. It is intended to provide context for HOST activities and expenditures.)

What is HOST?

Open space has long been and remains a key element of Harding's rural character. Many folks choose to live in Harding in part because they appreciate the high level of land preservation that has helped to preserve our rural ambience even in this day of encroaching urban sprawl. Today almost 6,000 acres or more than 45 percent of Harding land is preserved open space, including such large tracts as the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, the Jockey Hollow National Historical Park, the Lewis Morris Park and the Loantaka Brook Reservation.

In the 1990's Harding residents realized the value of land preservation as a supplement to these large tracts. In 1990 a group of citizens established the non-profit Harding Land Trust, a non-governmental organization to conserve natural, scenic and historic lands to maintain Harding's existing rural character. In 1996 our citizens voted to establish the Open Space Trust Fund, as a dedicated part of their property tax, and soon after our Township Committee established the Harding Open Space Trust Committee (HOST) to coordinate and advise it on future land acquisition.

In some cases, such as the 53 acre Margetts Field and the 15 acre tract on Harter Road, the Township has directly purchased land for open space preservation. However, over the years the Harding Open Space Trust Committee (HOST) has found that it can make its limited dollar resources go farther by choosing to work in coordination with other open space preservation agencies. Working with the Harding Land Trust, the New Jersey Audubon Society and the Trust for Public Land has resulted in land preservation on Loantaka Way, Post House Road and Mt. Kemble Avenue. HOST coordination with Morris County farmland funding has also made it possible for Harding to preserve more than 280 farmland acres since 1992. In addition, non-profits have acquired an additional 350 acres, major amounts by the Harding Land Trust, the New Jersey Audubon Society, the Morris Area Girl Scouts and the Great Swamp Watershed Association.

The current HOST committee has nine public members plus two Township Committee members, John Murray and Marshall Bartlett. Current HOST officers are Loren Pfeiffer, chair, and Isobel Olcott, vice-chair.

Editor's note: Reports from the last 2 public meeting of HOST are below.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Black Bear Nuisance and Damage Prevention

Various bear sightings have been reported during this spring in Harding. The

following information is provided on how to deal with black bears. It is excerpted from leaflets issued by the NJ Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife. Prevention is the best method for controlling black bear damage. Keep garbage, pet feeding and bird feeding away from wildlife. Black bears should never be fed (Note: in New Jersey, it's illegal to feed black bears, and violators face a penalty of up to \$1,000 for each offense) or approached. If a bear comes into your yard, make the bear aware of your presence. Do not feed the bear! Make sure the bear has an escape route. Yell, bang pots and pans or use an air horn to scare the bear away.

Aggressive and non-yielding bears should be reported to the Harding Police Department at (973) 455 0500. Bear sightings should be reported to the Fish, Game and Wildlife Division's Wildlife Research Unit at (908) 735 8793 or to the DEP's hotline -1 (877) 927 6337.

2008 Meeting Schedule of Wildlife Management Committee

Meetings are scheduled for August 27 and December 4, 2008. The meetings take place at 5 p.m. in the Municipal Building. They are open to the public.

TOWNSHIP NEWS

Township Committee Meeting

May 21, 2008

Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Lanzerotti, Mr. Murray, Mr. Rybka and Mr. Ward were present. There was no public discussion about the proposed Mt. Kemble Recreation Facility. Gail McKane and Christine Gatti (formerly Christine Zimmerman) were thanked for their efforts regarding the May 20 open meeting at the Harding Township School pertaining to the proposed recreation facility. The following statement was read by Mayor Louis Lanzerotti.

The Township Committee does not oppose ball fields on this site. While not unanimous, the consensus of the Township Committee is that the broad concept proposal by Morris Township is inconsistent with the current character of Harding Township regarding recreational facilities and fields. The current concept in Harding Township is based firmly on past practices over the last eighty years in the development and maintenance of our parks and fields. These past practices are what our citizens and predecessor Township Officials saw as being in the best interests of all Harding citizens. The Township athletic fields at the school and at Barrett Field are classic playing fields using natural turf, no lighting, and rudimentary benches where citizens bring lawn chairs to games. Both sets of fields are also near sensitive environmental areas. This is the model of athletic fields that Harding citizens have supported in the past and support at present.

Ordinances – Ordinance 6-08 *Establishing the Position and Duties of Municipal Housing Liaison* was adopted. The existing Planning Board Administrator will also become the Municipal Housing Liaison

Announcements/Reports/Presentations

A COAH update was given by Susan C. Kimble, Professional Planner for the Township. Harding Township will enter into the third round of obligations relating to the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH). According to Ms. Kimble extensive amendments are expected and will impact the Township. It is expected that COAH will adopt and publish all amendments May-June 08. A sub-committee will recommend a Fair Share Plan to the Township Committee in July then a draft plan will be reviewed by the Township Committee and Planning Board in September. There will then be a public hearing and plan adoption by the Planning Board in October followed by and endorsement of the plan in November and submission to COAH in December.

June 4, 2008

Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Lanzerotti, Mr. Murray, Mr. Rybka and Mr. Ward were present.

Ordinances – Ordinance 7-08 Authorizing Ground Lease and Easement with Harding Township Library was unanimously approved. The Township Committee is looking forward to the ribbon cutting ceremony. Member of the Friends of the Harding Township Library were present and thanked for their guidance help and support.

8-08 – Roadway Dedication and Right of Way Easement on Blue Mill Road unanimously approved.

8-08 – 2008 Capital Budget Ordinance – The DPW will receive a new bucket truck.

10-08 – Sewer Capital Ordinance - \$30,000.00 will be available for improvements to a sewer pumping station.

11-08 – Road Naming – The Freylinghuysen subdivision roads will be named Twin Oaks and Whispering Pine Lane.

Resolutions: TC 08-27 Support Family Dinner Night Wednesday October 29, 2008

TC 08-128 – The Township renewed its contract with Peter Rubinetti Private Disposal for Fall bulk pickup.

TC 08-129-132 – Approval of liquor license for Mt. Kemble Country Club, New Vernon Fire Department, MBN Associates, Inc., and Pierre's Restaurant respectively.

Correspondence - A letter was received thanking officer Fortunato for helping a stranded motorist.

Township Committee Meeting -- June 18

Attending: Bartlett, Lanzerotti, Rybka. Absent: Murray, Ward

Future Meetings tentative agendas: 7/09 – Contract for parking lot; Shade Tree Survey; COAH; Morris Township Fields; 8/6 – Contract for lighting of parking lot.

Board of Adjustment Annual Report (from Keefauver and Rosenbach)

The year (07-08) was described as a "normal and routine year" in terms of number and type of variance requests handled. Lot coverage was the most

frequently requested variance. Some troublesome items that may need some rule changes to correct were brought to the attention of the Committee:

1. Homeowners making even minor changes to non-conforming structures need to go through the expensive and time-consuming variance application process.
2. Lighting issues are coming up more frequently.
3. Split zone lot (properties that lie in two zones) regulations are clear but complex and cause difficulty for homeowners and their contractors.
4. Deer fences – currently maximum of 7 feet high.
5. Lengthy Construction – regulations call for construction to proceed in a “reasonably diligent manner”. But some projects take well over a year, which is longer than the duration of the building permits and some construction sites are unsightly.

Wildlife Management Committee – Annual Report (Meister)

Deer: The annual deer harvest was down to 171 (including 43 in the Great Swamp) from 285 the prior year and 337 two years ago. However, reported auto incidents are up from 19 to 25. Though it is not clear, it appears that the deer population has declined due to the harvest but also, and importantly, because of a wide spread disease. Jockey Hollow deer population is particularly worrisome. No harvest is allowed in Jockey Hollow. The Wildlife Committee has asked the Park Service about deer management in the park to no avail. The deer problem in Jockey Hollow was termed “not a laughing matter” and an “absolute disaster” because the forest is ripped of the regeneration growth, the seedling that creates the next generation of trees. Congressman Frelingheusen’s office has been asked for help but that “didn’t seem to help”. Deer control in the Park was deemed to be in the province of Harding because of the town’s commitment to protect the natural environment. Two new deer crossing signs were placed on Rt 202. A major short term priority is to fine a firm or group to serve as the “check station” for the deer harvest. Both New Vernon Motor Coach and the Harding Police have refused even after offering to raise the payment to \$10 per carcass.

Geese: The harassment program was called “outstandingly effective”. Twice per day, volunteers chase the geese from Bayne Park and Christ the King Church. Sightings are down 27%. The goose population is “down significantly”, therefore the harassment won’t have to be done in July molting season.

Bear: Bear are becoming an issue. There have been six reported sighting including at two times at the school (mother and cubs – particularly dangerous) which required lock downs of the school. Many sighting go unreported. The clear solution and message to citizens is DON’T FEED WILD ANIMALS – either on purpose or unknowingly. Don’t put garbage out at night – put it out in the morning before pick up. Don’t fill bird feeders except in the winter. And report sightings to the Police Department or the NJ Fish and Game Department. A funding request was made for

a special mailing to educate the citizenry on this nuisance.

Updates from the Chair

1. The Committee will send a letter to our state representatives requesting that they oppose bill A500 making changes to the Council on Affordable Housing laws that would be onerous to Harding.
2. Harding has been asked to support Madison Boro's \$6mm grant application to the Morris County Open Space Fund. The money will be used to purchase 53 acres of land between Park Ave and Route 24 (part of the old Exxon site in Florham Park) contiguous to the Madison athletic fields. The plan is to build a "regional recreation facility". The Committee appeared to be supportive of Madison's grant application but was careful to distinguish this project from the Mt Kemble Avenue athletic fields – first, about 300 Harding children participate in Madison sports programs; second, Harding's long standing special relationship with Madison as a "sending" student; third, the preliminary concept for the fields is compatible with the athletic use of the area.

Hearing Persons Present

Like the villain in a horror movie, the Mt Kemble Recreation Project just won't die. Several citizens showed up to inquire about reports that Morris Township, in the person of Mayor Nace, is still aggressively pursuing the project. It was revealed that Harding committeeman John Murray (absent at this TC meeting), met with Mayor Nace to discuss the project and Harding's objections. Recall that the Harding Township Committee released a statement the day after the large public hearing which said that though Harding is not opposed to athletic fields, the proposed design (including artificial turf, lights, bleachers, field house) was not in keeping with Harding's historical approach to sports fields. The complete substance of the meeting of Murray and the Morris Township people was unknown but it was said that the participants discussed "lighting and changes to hours of usage to make the project acceptable". Murray put the topic on the agenda for the July 9, (closed) executive session.

Frustration was expressed that the project is still being discussed and negotiated (the July 9 session is closed because it is deemed to be a "contract negotiation") even though the citizenry is overwhelmingly against the project. "Is it over?" and "When can we know that it's finished?" were the two questions most emphatically asked by the public.

The closely related topic of the never executed deed restriction on adjacent land came up. This is of extreme importance to the property owners along south side of the site as this land is even closer to their homes, and in fact borders many of their properties, than the proposed site of the Mt Kemble fields.

A bit of background: Years ago, in order to get approval for the original development of the AT&T Long Lines site, the developer agreed to a deed restriction

(i.e. .promised not to develop) on about 25 acres. However, the owner never officially applied for the deed restriction as promised. And if no entity follows up and demands it, why would you? Doing so would just restrict your ability to sell or develop the virgin land in the future.

Having discovered the never executed deed restriction, the nearby residents asked for the Township to force the owner of the 25 acres to put the deed restriction on the property that was supposed to be placed on it over 20 years ago. Looking at the documentation dug up by resident Brennan, committeeman Bartlett said the property must have the deed restriction and that this was "not a case where reasonable people could disagree". Oddly, and frustratingly to the residents effected, it was not clear if the Township could provide assistance according to Township attorney Neergard, since deed restrictions must be placed on by the owner of the property. Two questions remains: What remedy (and at what cost and hassle) does Harding and the affected citizens have against a property owner who did not execute a deed restriction as promised at the time a development was approved? Does Harding have an obligation to take action, on behalf of its citizens, to force the owner to do what he promised to do when was granted approval?

Planning Board Meeting -- June 23, 2008 (May meeting cancelled)

The latest round of proposals from "**Primrose Preserve**", a **projected development** on 125 acres off Brook Drive South, was heard at length. The developers asked the Board to consider cluster zoning with only 25 units instead of the 36 and 30 previously requested. The homes would be smaller 2-3 bedroom houses. In addition, they indicated this would be an age restricted community so the development would not add any school requirements. If they did the cluster development, approximately 100 acres was to be kept undeveloped and the development would be on the remaining acres (about 25) and would not be seen from the road. They volunteered to donate a portion of the land to Harding for affordable housing requirements. They had been turned down last November on a proposal for 36 and then subsequently lowered to 30 units.

The chair, Carol Conger, polled each Board member to express their thoughts and then vote Yes or No if they thought this new cluster zoning plan with 25 units should be considered. They were only voting whether or not they should entertain further discussion, not indicating whether they favored it or not. Moriarity, Bartlett, Dietz, Saulnier, and Newlin said yes they should hear what the developers were proposing. Saulnier was a qualified yes. He wanted to hear the proposal why they thought this would be a better plan and if it made sense to hear the entire plan. Newlin wanted to know why cluster zoning was removed from the master plan. Although Susan Kimball tried to explain it, she gave reasons why it should be removed, but Newlin wanted to know what the Planning Board's deciding factors

were but no one had the minutes from the decision.

Member dePoortere had issue with the 25 units, since a traditional development could support at most only 17 units. The developers came up with 25 by taking the 125 acres and dividing by the 5 acre minimum lot. Susan Kimball pointed out since getting a cluster development approved takes a lot longer than a traditional development approved the developers have no incentive to do a cluster development without a density bonus. Apparently the developers have to do so many of the traditional development steps for approval that once they get that, they stop there and don't continue to seek the cluster approval because of the additional time involved unless they can get more units out of it. dePoortere still said he could not justify the additional units if the parcel would only support 17 traditional houses.

There was a lot of concern about setting precedent. Bartlett asked Gary Hall if they did this could it be limited to this one request without being considered spot zoning. The consensus was there were not enough unique attributes to this one proposal that would prohibit another developer with a large RR zoned parcel from asking the same thing.

John Murray finally put the issue to rest when he asked Gary Hall and Susan Kimball if the Planning Board could entertain ANY discussion regarding a change in zoning to cluster zoning IF it wasn't part of the master plan. Both GH and SK said no. Any ordinance or resolution would require a change to the master plan before moving ahead. It came down to the point where any further discussion about cluster zoning was pointless without a change to the master plan. There was a vote as to whether they should recommend the Township Committee consider changing the master plan; the vote was: 7 against 3 for. The for's were Moriarity, Dietz, and Newlin. No more discussion regarding the change to the master plan or cluster zoning.

Next they moved on to a traditional development. The developers were asking for a "concept review" of suggested layouts; no application has been filed. Primrose Preserve The RR zoning calls for 5 acre parcels, however, the proposal assumed they could do lot size averaging and consisted of 17 lots ranging in size from just over 3 acres to over 7 plus acres. Isobel Olcott pointed out that lot size averaging was meant to create a better aesthetic for the neighborhood and not be more economically beneficial to the builder. Furthermore, she said the plan was not in compliance with the requirements of the RR zone, nor was it consistent with the Master Plan and State Plan of discouraging new infrastructure in Planning Area 5. The builder maintained that the configuration presented represented the most environmentally sound layout, protecting the sensitive areas, and creating "rectangular" lots as opposed to odd shaped lots. Susan Kimball pointed out that Harding liked "odd" shaped lots and there were many in the township. Olcott pointed out once again that lot sized averaging was not a given, but was at the discretion of

the Planning Board if it made sense from their point of view. All of the homes specified were 5 bedrooms, and it was assumed they would be purchased by families, some with school children.

Additional comments were made on the number of driveways. It was suggested the configuration have more flag lots with shared driveways. It was also asked if two entry roads could be made instead of the one that seemed to go through the entire development.

The developers had 17 perc tests done with the Board of Health being present, but they had not been approved. Isobel Olcott mentioned several times the tests were not approved, so this was all very speculative and preliminary based upon the approval of the tests for the 17 lots. The developers were left with quite a few suggestions for improvement and since this was all preliminary, they will need to present more defined plans. In the public comment section, speakers were both for and against the development. Hearing on this matter will be continued.

In another matter before the Board, the **Federal Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge** presented information regarding the plans of the refuge to open a road into the visitor's Center directly from Lees Hill Rd, instead of the current location on Pleasant Plains Rd, with realignment of the latter road. Residents on Pleasant Plains Rd would be on a dead end street; access into the Refuge from that street would be through a locked gate for official business only.

Harding Open Space Trust (HOST) Committee – May 28, 2008

Host briefly discussed the New Jersey Highlands Watershed proposal noting that Harding land values, including easements, are the highest (per acre) in the District. Further, it was again confirmed that community land values increase as land dedicated to open space increases.

Coordinating with Tina Bologna of the Harding Land Trust (HLT), the Committee supported cooperation with the American Farmland Trust noting the value to the community of attractive, preserved farmland. Currently, there are 1658 acres of Harding Farmland which represents approximately 12% of all land; 267 acres are preserved, only 16% of the total farmland in Harding.

Ms. Bologna then introduced a Conservation Easement Monitoring Proposal for cooperation between HLT and HOST. This proposal suggests a pilot program to evaluate the development of a stewardship and monitoring partnership. More specifically, the pilot would begin base lining and monitoring five prominent HOST properties to assure land use is in the public interest and consistent with original acquisition intent. The Committee voted to recommend \$3000 to offset HLT costs for materials, supplies and summer interns to begin work. Properties to be included were acquisitions funded by HOST taxes and would likely be Margetts Field, Frelinghuysen, Thebault, Scudder and Wilkerson. Evaluation of the partnership

would come at the end of the pilot project.

Host also agreed to work more closely with Township Committee Chairman Lanzerotti to clearly communicate and understand the HOST Mission Statement and the organization's supporting, measurable goals.

Harding Open Space Trust (HOST) Committee Meeting – June 25, 2008

Projects – von Zuben - the Township Committee has approved an ordinance to allocate the funding, \$500,000, for acquisition of this property, located at the corner of Blue Mill Rd and James St. The property is about 10 acres, currently subdivided into a 7 acre piece with house and barns, and a 3-acre building lot. As currently structured, ownership will be on a 50-50 basis with the Harding Land Trust (HLT). This is considered a very attractive project for our community, as it would preserve a key corner in town, preserving the streetscape of both Blue Mill and James streets, and is contiguous with Margetts Field. A public hearing to discuss details of the acquisition is scheduled for July 9 to include easement provisions, access and future stewardship. Discussion centered on removal of large, dead trees and the legal aspects of the arrangement. Closing is expected in August.

Eggert - closing is still delayed pending continuing legal reviews.

Morris- the Committee noted that the Morris County Agricultural Board has approved the Farmland Preservation status of this property on Red Gate Road. Further potential or action is not currently clear since there is not agreement on the price/cost of the arrangement.

Primrose Preserve – it was noted that the Planning Board had recently turned down a second request by the applicant for a zoning variance for development of this 127 acre property off Brook Drive South. The plan had included a request for “cluster zoning”.

Stewardship – Frelinghuysen – Tina Bologna, President of the Harding Land Trust, noted that private funds are available for stewardship of this property (32 acres owned by HLT, 3 acres owned by HOST). This includes work on weeding, seeding and mowing the land. The HOST Committee discussed the logistics and cost of mowing only on that portion of the property.

The Committee discussed the base lining and subsequent stewardship of five HOST properties in cooperation with the HLT. Work has commenced after approval of the maintenance agreements.

The creation of an informative brochure describing HOST and its work is near completion. Sally Dudley, leader of the assigned subcommittee, asked for final edits to assure correct focus, tone, visuals and web link with the HOST website for technical information.

Finally, Gail McKane provided a helpful, current picture of HOST financials. The HOST Trust has a balance of approximately \$1.9 million. After planned disbursements in 2008 (including outlays for the von Zuben and Eggert acquisitions),

tax receipts for the year and several 2008 reimbursements, the balance is expected to be \$1.9 million at the end of the year (worst case). Disbursements include payment of 10% of HOST income for the maintenance and preservation of the Glen Alpin property.

The Committee continued to work, in executive session, to identify properties for future acquisition.

Board of Adjustment, May 15, 2008

Resolutions - Approved

Barbara and Michael Tighe, 496 Spring Valley Road, Block 11, Lot 4

John and Joyce Murray, 63 Lake Trail East, Block 43, Lot 15

Jeffrey and Tracey Flanagan, 6 Meyersville Road, Block 12, Lot 13

Pending Application

Daniel and Samantha Anderson, 613 Van Beuren Road, Block 5, Lot 7.09, "C" Variance. One month adjournment granted.

Kenneth A. Gruskin (Applicant), Steven and Beverly Rubenstein (Owners)

9 Wildlife Run, Block 15, Lot 22.04, "C" Variance

Application carried to the June 19, 2008 meeting

New Applications

Michael and Martha Rolland, 80 Glen Alpin Road, Block 26, Lot 16.01, "C" Variance. Home is pre-existing non-conforming. The addition will be conforming and setbacks are conforming. Building coverage variance is needed if lot is treated as a non-flag lot. Board believes that the lot should be treated as a flag lot, although not legally a flag lot. A lot coverage variance is needed. Recommended for approval.

Alberto and Yolanda Mendez, 16 Pleasant Plains Road, Block 52, Lot 2.04, "C" Variance. Previous variances were granted to allow the existing home to remain during construction of the new home and for a height variance. The water table is higher than expected and therefore, another height variance, over existing grade, is requested. The health department is involved in the installation of a new modified septic system. Recommended for approval with grading similar to the submitted plans.

Nicole and Donato Maselli, 628 Spring Valley Road, Block 2, Lot 5, "C" Variance
Mr. Rosenbach recused himself. There is an historic house on the property. A variance is needed for the pre-existing non-conforming historic house and garage. The new proposed home does not require any variances. The historic home requires a variance for square footage for an accessory structure, setbacks, bedroom in an accessory structure and building area. Public comment was made by the Harding Land Trust and Hartley Farms regarding a fence blocking the view of Waterman Meadow and outdoor lighting concerns. Recommended for approval with no stockade fence from historic house to new driveway.

Harding Township Historic Preservation Commission,

Harding Twp Environmental commission,

Harding Twp Board of education, no reports this month

Civic Association News: The **DEADLINE FOR THE next 2 issues OF THE THUMBNAIL is SEPTEMBER 5 and October 3** respectively Current and past issues of Thumbnail, as well as the Directory are also on our Website: <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.

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; 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:** 7/12, 7/26, 8/9. 8/23, 9/6, 9/20 10/4, and 10/18.

DATES TO REMEMBER, meetings as noted.

Municipal Court (1 st and 3 rd Tuesday)	3 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
HOST (Open Space Trust) (4 th Wed)	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