

**APRIL 2011**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

**COMMUNITY EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE:** Harding Township residents are invited to join members of the Church of Christ the King and members of the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon for an Easter Sunrise Service on **Sunday, April 24 at 6:30 AM** at Bayne Park. For information, please call Patti Wood at (973) 425-0878.

**REMINDER: BUDGET AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION- APRIL 27.**

Last year the fate of the school budget was decided by only 9 votes. While less than 5 residents showed up to the school board budget meeting prior to the vote last year, over 65 showed up after the vote was taken to show their displeasure with the outcome. An analysis of who voted showed that only 16% of registered voters actually voted. Looking at the percentage of residents who voted in each age category revealed: 2% of age 18-29, 11% of age 30-39, 24% of age 40-49, 19% of age 50-59, 20% of age 60-69, 17% over 75 and 8% age unknown voted Go to the County website for a mail-in ballot [http://www.morriscountyclerk.org/html/elections/pre\\_ballot.asp](http://www.morriscountyclerk.org/html/elections/pre_ballot.asp), if you can't vote in person. Let your voice be heard at the voting booth where it counts.

**A COPY OF THE SCHOOL BUDGET PRESENTATION CAN BE FOUND AT [WWW.HARDINGCIVIC.ORG](http://WWW.HARDINGCIVIC.ORG) ON THE FRONT PAGE OR UNDER OUR KIDS- BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

**THE SEVENTH GRADE CLASS** at the Harding Township School has created a HARDINGOPOLY Game. Local business bought spots on the game board. (The game is much like Monopoly). It is a wonderful keepsake for any family residing in Harding.

The game can be purchased for \$25.00 at the school. The Garden Cottage, Candy Store & Flowers From Hannah are also selling the game on consignment. The monies raised go to the 2012 class trip to Washington DC. Any questions please contact Bobbi Collier at [bobbicollier@me.com](mailto:bobbicollier@me.com) (908)267-3037 or Lisa Gleason [infanteco@aol.com](mailto:infanteco@aol.com) (973)902-2817

**Harding Land Trust Annual Meeting, Monday April 25th, 2010, at 7:15 PM** in the Parish Hall of Christ the King Church in New Vernon, NJ. The featured speaker is Blaine Rothausser, local environmental consultant and wildlife photographer who will be sharing his photographs that celebrate biodiversity in the Great Swamp watershed. Mr.

Rothauser's presentation is scheduled to begin at 7:45 pm.

Harding Land Trust is also working with the Harding Township School's 8th grade science class to conduct its annual birding trip on preserved land. The birding trip serves as an educational fundraiser where funds are pledged to support the Jim Stamey Bird Garden at the school. Every year the Land Trust raises over \$1,000 to support the Garden. To sign the pledge form for support of this cause, contact the Land Trust office.

As spring approaches, HLT will be continuing our environmental restoration and maintenance projects on our preserved properties. Volunteers are critical to this work.

We have several projects planned this year that include invasive species removal and planting native trees and shrubs. If you are interested in learning how you can help, please contact [tina@hardinglandtrust.org](mailto:tina@hardinglandtrust.org).

### **THE KEMMERER LIBRARY**

**Art in Bloom:** The biannual art show to support the library will take place Friday and Saturday, **May 6th and 7th**, at Church of Christ the King. Friday night's gala is 6-9 p.m.; Saturday hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Calling All "Budding" Artists:** Art in Bloom will include an art contest for elementary school students. Please submit your artwork to the library by April 30th. Include your name, age, home phone number and school. Artists' work will be displayed at the Saturday, May 7th, show. Contact Chris O'Donnell (973-539-0149) with questions.

**Evening at the Library:** Prolific biographer James McGrath Morris will discuss his newest book, *Pulitzer: A Life in Politics, Print and Power*, on Wednesday, May 25th, 7 p.m. Autographed copies available. The plethora of cable news stations today all descend in a straight line from Joseph Pulitzer's crusader journalists of the early 20th century. Please RSVP to [desk@hardinglibrary.org](mailto:desk@hardinglibrary.org).

**Wanted:** Volunteer webmaster (or -mistress!) for the library's web site. Work can be done from home, takes about 3 hours a week. Fair to middling computer skills needed—if you can surf the 'net and send email, we can teach you how to do this! A good opportunity for an adult or teen who wants to make a big visual impact on the library!

**Adult Yoga:** Try Patricia Kennelly's new general yoga class for all ages every Thursday, 4:30-5:30 pm. \$10 suggested donation. Bring a mat and wear comfortable clothing.

**Senior Yoga:** Meets Mondays at 10:45 a.m. with mats and 11:30 for chair work. \$10 suggested donation. Wear comfortable clothes.

**New York Times readers:** Did you know that with your library card you can read *The New York Times* online for free? Today's paper is only a few clicks away from our web site at [www.hardinglibrary.org](http://www.hardinglibrary.org). Contact the library to learn how.

**Adult Book Group:** Meets last Wednesday each month at 7:30 p.m. Next dates: April 27th and May 25th. April's book is *Death at La Fenice* by Donna Leon; May's is *The Double Bind* by Chris Bohjalian.

**Books for Sale at Kirby Hall:** Next time you're in the Municipal Building, check out the library's self-service book cart in the front foyer. \$3 hardcovers, \$1 paperbacks, \$1 children's books.

**Pajama Storytime:** Fridays, April 22nd and May 13th, at 7 p.m. Children come dressed in pajamas and bring their favorite stuffed toy to listen to bedtime stories. The toy can spend the night having fun in the library and children pick up the toys the following day.

**Lego Event:** Saturday, April 30th, at 12 p.m. for children of all ages.

**American Girl Luau:** Sunday, May 15th, at 4 p.m. Children should dress up Hawaiian-style and bring their American Girl dolls to this outdoor picnic (weather permitting). Snacks will be served. Children will be able to have a sketch made of themselves with their doll by local artist Tine Graham.

**Story Time:** Mondays at 10:30 for children ages 2 and 3.

**Songs and Books:** Wednesdays at 10 a.m. for babies six to 24 months.

### **WHO ARE OUR DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS? Let us hear your ideas**

The Harding Township Civic Association is now accepting nominations for its Distinguished Citizen award, which will be presented during the annual Memorial Day ceremony following the parade. Nomination should include the individual's name, contact information, and details pertaining to his or her good citizenship and community involvement. Nominations must be received by **April 30, 2010** and can be submitted to Scott Shipley by e-mail at [shipleys4@verizon.net](mailto:shipleys4@verizon.net), or by postal service to 14 Beech Lane, Morristown, NJ 07960. Nominations can also be submitted to any other Harding Township Civic Association Trustee.

### **HARDING TWP REC SUMMER FIELD HOCKEY CAMPS - REGISTER!!**

Registrations continue for the **2011 Harding Township Recreation Association (HTRA) Field Hockey Camps**. Dates are as follows: Session 1, July 25-29; Session 2: August 1-5; Session 3: August 8-11. All sessions will meet from 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. at the Harding Township School, 34 Lee's Hill Road, New Vernon, NJ. For more information and enrollment materials please call John Keating at 908-730-7108 or email [bennettkea@aol.com](mailto:bennettkea@aol.com).

## **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

The following list was prepared in collaboration with members of the New Vernon Garden Club and reflects the experience of gardening in Harding. Residents might find it helpful in planning their spring plantings. Deer in our area rarely damage the plants listed. Nevertheless, they will browse at any plant, if no alternative food is available; also, each deer herd is different. The young deer eat what their mothers eat, and eating habits may vary from herd to herd. Deer will usually not eat any leaf that is gray and/or furry; many herbs fall in this category. Plant material not favored by deer include:

### Trees

Cedar  
Fir  
Maples, ornamentals  
Spruce  
Dogwood  
American Holly

### Perennials

Daffodil, (Jonquil)  
Foxglove  
Hellebore  
Iris  
Ferns  
Lavender  
Euphorbia, (Spurge)

Cimicifuga, (Fairy Candle)  
Lilly of the Valley  
Dicentra, (Bleeding Heart)  
Coreopsis  
Buddleia, (Butterfly Bush)  
Aquilegia, (Columbine)

### Shrubs

Andromeda  
Boxwood  
Cotoneaster  
Skimmia  
Juniper  
Leucothoe

### Groundcover

Pachysandra  
Lamium  
Ornamental Grasses  
Ajuga

**Bayne Park volunteers** are asking if you can join them in the effort to humanely ***control the Canada Geese population*** at Bayne Park this summer. **Just sign up to be “on call”, at 10AM or 2PM, on any day from May 16<sup>th</sup> thru July 4<sup>th</sup>.** We'll call you minutes before your selected time slot & tell you if geese are present at the park. If so, you will come to the park to join 2 or 3 others to chase the geese away. It will take no more than ½ hour of your time. You will be using proven techniques, under the guidance of a trained volunteer. The birds learn quickly, and after the 1<sup>st</sup> few weeks, they rarely return.

Modest physical effort is required; primarily, the ability to walk across the park at a reasonable pace. All equipment is supplied. Shoes that can get muddy & long pants are suggested. This Township approved effort, so successful the last 4 years, was featured in “Goose Tracks 2008”, a nationwide publication of the Humane Society of the US and in the magazine of the NJ League of Municipalities. This precisely timed

“harassment phase”, for which we are recruiting now, is just part of a longer carefully planned scenario grounded in principles of goose behavior. Come be part of a trend setting project that started here! Contact: Roberta Shields, [r.a.shields@att.net](mailto:r.a.shields@att.net), (973) 267-5673 or (973) 906 8357.

#### **HARDING ALLIANCE AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE:**

Our mission is to provide education and resources to promote healthy decision-making and to avoid substance abuse and risky behaviors. Harding Alliance members are concerned citizens, police, and health and school professionals. Please come and let your voice be heard. Our next meeting is **June 15, at 8:30 AM** in the Guidance Office of Harding Township School. Register for updates to our new [website](#) at <https://sites.google.com/site/hardingalliance/> and our blog at <http://hardingalliance.blogspot.com/>. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Judy Malloy, Chairperson, at [judymotown@gmail.com](mailto:judymotown@gmail.com).

#### **ENROLLMENT continues FOR THE HTRA SUMMER DAY CAMP**

For more information, contact (973) 605-5866 , e-mail to [promano59@comcast.net](mailto:promano59@comcast.net) or website [www.hardingtownshipdaycamp.com](http://www.hardingtownshipdaycamp.com)

(JOB OPPORTUNITIES: Anyone entering grades 7 and 8 wishing to be a CIT or anyone age 14 and older looking for a counselor position should contact Pat Romano at 973-605-5866 or obtain job application forms on website).

#### **TOWNSHIP NEWS:**

##### **TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING- March 23, 2011**

The Township Committee voted to commission a tree in honor of Fred Kirby.

##### **Upcoming Meetings**

April 20- Public Hearing of the budget

May 18- Report from Dntown Committee, Adoption of the budget

##### **Budget Presentation Update**

The budget was presented at this meeting and is available at the Township website: <http://www.hardingnj.org/>.

Budget Summary: Revenue is up 3%. The 2% budget cap for municipal budgets passed, however it does allow for certain exemptions. Those exemptions include: pension payments, health insurance increases, bond interest and emergency funding such as the snow we had this winter. With that the township’s allowable increase is 3.99%. The

proposed budget will increase only 2.6%. This will result in an increase in property tax bills of only 1.68%. A summary of highlights can be found here.

A preliminary presentation on the Capital Budget was given by the Township Administrator, Gail McKane. Items that have a life of at least 5 years are considered capital budget items. Some years ago the town decided to operate on a cash basis instead of bonding capital expenditures. To accomplish this \$450,000 will be put in a capital fund to pay for such items as town and police automobiles, road resurfacing, building upgrades, etc.

One open question was what to do with the Tennis Courts. The courts have come to the end of their lifecycle. The estimates the town has gotten for replacement have run as high as \$100,000. Mayor Marshall Bartlett said he would look into what Fairleigh Dickinson did with their courts recently because they look very similar to ours and he doubts the school spent that much to replace them. The town is looking for input on what to do with the courts.

### **New Practices in the Building Department**

New business practices have been put into place in the building department. Now, when an application is received an e-mail is sent out to all parties, e.g. homeowner, professionals, etc. The e-mail also contains instructions on what comes next and who is responsible. This lets everyone know when the paperwork was received and when the clock starts ticking. In the past, there were a number of instances where homeowners thought the permits were applied for only to discover weeks later that the paperwork was not complete. The system was put in to place on March 1, and is already proving to be successful with greater transparency fewer complaints.

The Board of Health instituted some cost savings measures including replacing the Health Educator, using more generic material, incorporating health education in other Health Department functions, recruiting specialists from the public health field instead of hiring a person, and potentially using outside resources instead of a staff person to answer questions. More details can be found at <http://www.hardingcivic.org/our-town/board-of-health.html>.

### **Resolutions**

The East Morris Baseball, Inc will be using Barrett Field this year. The Township Committee voted to allow them to use the field at no cost because they were going to be making improvements to the field so they as well as a girl's soccer team could use the facilities.

With the consolidation of the municipal court services in Madison, Harding found itself with a court administrator only months from becoming vested for retirement. The

town has worked out a deal with Washington Township to share the administrator. Washington Township finds itself without an administrator due to a retirement. Our administrator will work 25 hours for Washington Township.

There were a number of tax appeals in the resolutions. The first one was justified based upon the fact that the house was in very poor condition. It was referred to as "obsolete". The house was assessed at \$1.4M, but recently sold for \$600K. The assessment was adjusted to \$700K.

Two other appeals were tabled. The justification was based on the listing price for a similar house on the market and the fact that contemporaries are no longer "in vogue". After extensive discussion Councilman L. Lanzerotti felt uncomfortable having to share the town's strategy in an open meeting should this end up in court while Councilwoman R. Egea felt uncomfortable basing the decision on a listing price- not a sale price. Ms. Egea thought this would set a dangerous precedence for other appeals based upon listing in lieu of sales.

Much to the Township's dislike a settlement of litigation was passed authorizing the township to withdraw various complaints and violations from the Municipal Court and let the Superior Court of NJ take control. By way of background, one of our residents caught the attention of the town and the DEP after disturbing a large amount of steep slope soil. A number of local violations had been lodged and the resident was willing to battle the town in court with counter claims. Court costs for the town were becoming excessive. Once the DEP violation got up to the Superior Court it was cost effective to allow that court to take over monitoring the situation. While the town disliked having to settle, it was in the best interest of the town not to continue to incur court costs, which for the town would not be recoverable even if they prevailed.

The Department of Transportation will be holding a public information meeting in the late spring/early summer regarding the replacement of the bridge on Route 202 near the Olde Mill Inn.

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING, February 28, 2011**

Mr. Minckiwicz was absent; the draft of the school calendar for 2011-2012 was tabled, as well as discussion of budget meeting. "No Child Left Behind" funds were used to purchase a smart table for Ms. Werner's class. "The Cat in the Hat" came to visit the school in honor of Dr. Suess' upcoming birthday. Kindergarten registration is presently at 28 students for the class of 2020.

The school district is planning to ask parents and students to sign a code of conduct.

The school's Valentine's Day dance was considered a success. Also successful was the Shakespeare residency involving a production of *Julius Caesar*. Parents and students will be asked to participate in an optional, anonymous survey regarding school cafeteria food.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING, March 7, 2011**

The meeting began with a student presentation. Harding Township School's Quest students under the supervision of teacher Amy O'Brien had participated in a competition through the NJ Consortium of Gifted and Talented Programs entitled "World of Free Enterprise" sponsored by Toys R Us. On February 16, 2011, 32 teams competed. Harding Township School won three awards:

1. Best presentation: 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Blastoff Inc. presents the Flipside Rocket Cycle. Team members are: Kevin Travers; Bradley Harris; Stephanie Dellavia; Lilah Connell; Mattie Saulnier; and Joseph Sciales.
2. Best print ad: 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Imagine Art presents Shoetastic. Team members are: Noah French, Joey Gore; Morgan Sanchez; Andrew Novotny; Avery Humphries; Jake Kurz. According to Noah French, "Our kit lets you design your shoe the way you want it to look—colorful and creative. The kit sells for \$30."
3. Best Toy Idea: First Place: Voyage, INC. presents the RC Video Plane. Team members are Jack Thomson, Megan Dyer, Brandon Bernstein, Brittany Bistis, Maddie Boyer and Joe O'Connor. Classic remote control airplane with a mounted camera. The built-in Voyage USB port is also available for downloading pictures onto the "company's" website.

Part of the award recognition criteria was student presentation of their products at the competition.

After the student presentations were complete, the Board continued with its regular agenda. Dr. Darren Petersen: The public is invited to attend Harding Township School's Technology Showcase at the school on **Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>**, evening, time TBA. In an open-house format, presentations will be ongoing throughout the evening. Julie Poole, Amy O'Brien and Dennis Kozar presented the plan for this presentation. Refreshments and a slideshow will also be presented.

Curriculum and Instruction Report: STEM program is getting students interested in science, placing Harding Township at the vanguard of innovative school programs.

The budget presentation was delivered on March 28.

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Madison Board of Education introduced their new superintendent Dr. Mike Rossi. The Madison Board may move to the old Dodge municipal building in Madison, but major renovations are required first. District Writing Assessment—teachers are in process of grading writing portfolios as part of the Six plus One Traits of Writing program. Teachers visited a school in Franklin Lakes that is using the Singapore Math program in preparation for possibly implementing this program here. Board resolved to hold a public hearing to adopt the budget for the 2011-2012 school year. Special Olympics Basketball will be held in school gymnasium on March 8 from 6 to 8 pm. Kindergarten will walk to the Kemmerer Library as a part of the Read Across America field trip with a police escort. The Board approved a new aide position which will impact this year's budget at approximately \$18,000.

### **PLANNING BOARD March meeting cancelled**

### **BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT: no report this month**

### **HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION, January, 2011**

Wendy Montgomery is Chair; Maureen Soter is Vice-Chair for 2011.

#### **Review of Board of Adjustment applications:**

**Alan/Jennifer Brazil (Owners) 20 Red Gate Road, Block 4, Lot 8 (Silver Lake National Register District)** – The owners wish to renovate and enlarge a garage and make minor improvements on two other small buildings on the property. The Commission has no comment on these proposed renovations since there will likely be no impact on the Streetscape.

**T-Mobile Northeast LLC & Sectorsite, LLC (Applicants), NJ Conference 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventists (Owner), 501 Tempe Wick Road (Tempe Wick Road, National Register District)** – Proposal is for a 150' cell tower at southwest corner of existing parking lot. This application is not yet deemed complete before the Board of Adjustment. As part of its required Section 106 review before the State Historic Preservation Office, T-Mobile plans to perform a "crane test" to determine the impact of the tower upon the district and specifically, Glen Alpin. The Commission will not comment to SHPO or BOA until the crane test has been completed. B. Brennan stated that if there is adequate notice of the crane test, she will post the information on the web site to alert residents a couple of days beforehand. Once the crane test has been completed, the Commission will have 30 days in which to make comments to the State. M. Soter will draft this letter.

#### **Review Of Construction Applications:**

**Robert W. and Kristin Doherty (Owners) 601 Spring Valley Road, Block 4, Lot 32 (Hartley Farms National Register District)** – This open, hilly 5.1 acre lot was formerly an apple orchard. The Commission reviewed the application for construction of a 7,000 sq. ft. home.

Because the home will be sited at a significantly higher grade than Spring Valley Road, and will involve substantial soil disturbance, Mr. Doherty discussed the grading plan and driveway. The driveway entrance will be marked with stone pillars, deer grate and an open gate.

Addressing the Commission's concerns about streetscape impacts, Mr. Doherty said the row of existing evergreens will be maintained along Spring Valley Road and 12 apple trees will be planted in the area of the former orchard near the lot's southern property lines. Besides boxwoods and roses around the perimeter of the house, the Dohertys plan to allow field grass to predominate along the front of the lot. The rear of the property will largely remain treed. The Commission felt the planned tall grass will soften streetscape impact and perpetuate the landscape characteristics of the Hartley Farms District. The Commission also suggested the applicants' engineers round out the contours of septic field borders and the adjacent reserve to make them appear more like natural contours. The home itself will be in a traditional style, constructed of fieldstone and clapboard with cedar shake roofing and copper flashing. The Commission endorses the use of board and batten around the garages, which will reduce the perception of the building's bulk and mass. The Commission did question whether, given the amount of soil disturbance, a retention basin would be required, as this could further impact streetscape.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Continued Discussion of Harding Township School proposed repairs and possibility of replacing 165 corbels along the roof of the original school building.** Four members of the HPC Board looked at them and decided that ideally the corbels should be kept, as they are an important architectural feature and contribute significantly to the design integrity of the building. Given the sum involved and budget considerations, the Board of Education asked if the HPC had any further ideas to reduce corbel replacement costs as the Board may consider this item at its next public meeting. (January 10, 2011). D. Maselli has offered to investigate other means of obtaining the new corbels and will report back to the Board.

#### **HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION, February 2011**

##### **Concept Review:**

- Tom Ruegg (Owner) and son Brian Ruegg - 8 Village Road, Block 17, Lot 60 (Historic District: New Vernon) Mr. Ruegg appeared before the HPC as part of a concept review for his recently purchased property. The Commission was quite familiar with the property and home, as it held a special site inspection there in February 2010 at the request of the previous owner's representatives.

- Mr. Ruegg, the current owner, wishes to build a second floor addition over the existing kitchen addition, thereby tying in to an upstairs bedroom and enlarging a closet, as well as adding a 20 x 25 ft garage which will be connected to the original house by a new breezeway. The owner stated that the original siding is wood clapboard (currently covered by aluminum) and they plan to use wood in the new construction with a

probable asphalt roof. The owner stated a desire to reconstruct a previously removed front porch that extended across the length of the house. The HPC advised that they would be supportive of restoring the porch as original.

- The owner also proposes to install an 8 ft x 40 ft storage container on the property to temporarily hold tools during construction. Mr. Ruegg mentioned that the Township prefers a timeline for construction equipment.

- The owner discussed a subsequent phase that would involve the construction of a +/-30 ft x 40 ft detached workshop with residential apartment above. The commission suggested that the owner consider the entire site development (i.e., new road access, possibly septic work) at the out-set of the project to ensure compatible viability of the various building and site components. The Commission further commented on the positive impact created by detached accessory structures and the contribution that they make to the scale of the village setting. The Commission also suggested that the workshop appearance be consistent with barn structures within the relative vicinity. Commission members expressed concern that the inclusion of dormers will detract from the simplicity of a barn structure.

The owner explained the development of a new access drive. The commission offered advice as to the myriad of approvals that may be required in order to achieve the desired site development. The Commission agrees that the overall impression of the lot will depend on where the driveway will be. The Commission suggested that the owner get a civil engineer involved regarding septic system and Township's zoning ordinances, such as lot coverage amounts. Generally, the Historic Preservation Commission feels this is a positive direction for this property. This is a contributing structure in the New Vernon Historic District.

**Review Of Board Of Adjustment Application:**

Arshad Zakaria (Owner), 1 Spring Hollow Lane, Block 47, Lot 37, ( Not in a Historic District/Not an Independent Contributing Site) – The owner is proposing to remove the existing entry drive and masonry pillars topped by lighting fixtures. The owner then proposes to construct a new entry drive with masonry pillars and lighting fixtures approximately 12 ft to the west of the original. This will have the effect of reducing the overall Lot Coverage on the property. The Commission has no comment as this property is not in an historic district and the proposed work will have no additional adverse effect upon the Streetscape.

**Review Of Planning Board Application:**

- Morris/Post & Rail Partners (Owners) 48-52 Red Gate Road, Block 4, Lot 11-12, Historic District: Silver Lake - Owners propose a lot line adjustment of a previously

approved subdivision. The Commission has no comment as there will be no additional impact upon Streetscape.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Continued Discussion of Harding Township School's proposed roof repairs and possibility of replacing 165 corbels along the roof of the original school building. D. Denson and D. Maselli looked into the merits and estimated cost of the approximately \$10,000 project. D. Denson wondered if local groups might be interested in helping cover the costs of the project and perhaps the Commission could approach the New Vernon Historical Society to see if there was any interest in holding a fundraiser for this effort. Members of the HPC will approach the Historical Society and report results at the next meeting.

**Camaratta, 35 Pleasantville Road** Dave Denson took a tour of the house on Pleasantville Road during the Board of Adjustment's site inspection. The damaged house is proposed for demolition; Dave found nothing worth saving of historic note.

The Commission congratulated D. Maselli upon hearing of his selection as the subject of an article to be published in Park Place magazine. Dan mentioned that he would be speaking about why he chose to live in Harding, so the Commission happily suggested the inclusion of such terms as "rural and historic Harding," "streetscape," etc....wherever possible during the interview process.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING, March 7, 2011**

MEMBERS PRESENT: C. Allyn, J. Kovacs, L. Norton, K. Meister, W. Settle and H. Symonds

TC LIAISON: L. Lanzerotti, N. Platt; MEMBERS ABSENT with excuse: T. Cotton, R. Greenway, D. Dietz; ALSO ABSENT: D. Hinds **ALSO PRESENT: Sharon Krizko, new CPAC member**

**B. REORGANIZATION ACTIONS**

Appointments and Membership – L. Lanzerotti reported that the Township Committee appointed Karl Meister as the EC Chair for the year and Hugh Symonds as a second new member (replacing Lincoln Norton who has resigned from the Commission). Sharon Krizko was appointed a member of CPAC. C. Allyn stated that in his over 14 years as a member of the Environmental Commission and in his more than 10 years of experience as a Board Member of ANJEC, he found the action the Township Committee took in appointing a new EC member and then naming that member as chair to be very unusual. He further asked that a statement he read to the EC be passed on to the Township Committee for comment. A general conversation followed regarding three

areas of concern to the EC: lighting, fences, and trees....and proposed approaches to deal with these perceived problems.

Additionally, L. Norton suggested that the EC review its charter to assess its effectiveness; stating the relationship between the EC and the Township Committee appears weak. N. Platt stated that the EC needs to know how willing the Township Committee is to work with EC's recommendations, since much time is spent by the EC members in researching ideas and drafting proposed ordinances designed to maintain or improve the positive aspects of the Township. J. Kovacs stated that the original goal of the EC was to act as the protector of Open Spaces and that lighting and tree preservation are a large part of that. K. Meister stated that there needs to be better communication between the EC, the Planning Board and the Township Committee. N. Platt replied that the EC's former chair, Mark O'Keeffe did meet with the other boards last year to indicate priorities and that nothing was accomplished. C. Allyn is asking for feedback from the TC to help the EC decide what it should be doing as a body. K. Meister suggested that the EC present a report to the Township Committee as to accomplishments and priorities asking for feedback.

Election of Vice-chair – J. Kovacs moved that C. Allyn be nominated to stand for Vice-Chair. K. Meister suggested that the matter be taken to the Township Committee for an informal discussion. Discussion ensued. C. Allyn withdrew his nomination pursuant to K. Meister's request.

#### C. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

The February minutes were approved as amended (deletion of incomplete statement about tree ordinances).

#### D. LIAISON REPORTS

Planning Board - Glatt Property update: There was a site walk to observe the general layout of property, landscape, and existing buildings. C. Allyn stated that the expected plan will request lot size averaging. There are some environmental constraints on this property; i.e. setbacks to open water and wetlands, etc.

CPAC – J. Kovacs reported that the next meeting of this Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 9, 2011. H.O.S.T. - The Totten property was discussed at the last meeting. This land abuts the lands of the Great Swamp. Primrose – The Planning Board granted an extension of time to install markers delineating Conservation Easements in anticipation of activities to preserve additional portions of the property.

#### E. PROJECTS

Easement Stewardship: No report.

Shade Tree: J. Kovacs is in the process of completing a letter to be sent to the Planning Board shortly regarding replacement of trees taken down in the Tree Conservation areas and designation and protection for "specimen" trees. The EC supports that the ordinance should require the replanting of new native trees when trees in the conservation areas or specimen trees are removed.

Fencing – C. Allyn and D. Dietz will meet on this topic.

Lighting - Lincoln Norton agreed to take on drafting a letter to the Planning Board describing the perceived need for changes to the Lighting Ordinance.

Trails Activities – C. Allyn stated that the Township has an inventory of trails and their history. Documentation of trails dates back to the 1950's. Some areas need to be looked at more closely, but it is impressive. There are 4 types of bridle trails: Owned by HT or another non-profit (10%), easement deeded agreement (15%), licensed legal agreement (15%), and *de facto* (50-60% - nobody owns or objects.) The percentages indicated are very rough perceptions from Mr. Allyn based on his work with the mapping. C. Allyn also stated a concern that a decrease in usage of the bridle trails may become a serious problem for their future. One approach to this issue is to look to partnerships with other user communities (e.g., Seton-Hackney stables).

Energy Efficiency Analysis – The EC would like to look at the energy usage in the Township to make observations geared toward energy savings. For example, eliminating lamp posts could save the Township as much as \$7,000 per year. (JCP&L charges for each and every lamp post, whether or not they are lit.) The Mennen Arena parking lot was mentioned as a great example of good use of solar panels (an idea that was suggested for evaluation within Harding).

**Don't forget the Harding Township Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony to be held on Monday, May 30, 9:30 AM.** The Parade will begin at the Harding Township School parking lot at 9:30 AM, and will end at Memorial Park on Village Road. The Memorial Day ceremony will begin immediately afterwards. Any Township group or organization interested in participating this year should contact the Parade Chair, Scott Shipley, at 908-406-1402

**"Calling all Veterans."**

The Harding Township Civic Association would like to invite all Veterans living in Harding Township to march in our Memorial Day Parade. If you are interested, please contact the Parade Chair, Scott Shipley by phone at 908-406-1402 or by email at [shipleys4@verizon.net](mailto:shipleys4@verizon.net).

**NEW VERNON PRESBYTERIAN NURSERY SCHOOL** is now accepting registrations for the next School Year; classes for 2 ½ , 3 and 4 year olds. For more information, or to schedule a visit, please contact director, Denise Keevil, at 973-326-9839.

**Civic Association News and Announcements**

**Civic Association:** The **DEADLINE FOR THE next 2 issues OF THE THUMBNAIL is May 6 and June 17, respectively.** *The June issue publishes late, as the issue following June is September.* 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](mailto:hesnaj@verizon.net)**, or the Harding Township Civic Association, PO Box 72, New Vernon, NJ 07976. The Civic Association website, [www.hardingcivic.org](http://www.hardingcivic.org), is updated frequently; we post events and announcements sent to our e-mail address: [submissions@hardingcivic.org](mailto:submissions@hardingcivic.org).

**TOWNSHIP RECYCLING**

**The Hours of operation are every Wednesday** from 7AM. to noon (7– 9AM self service); and every other **Sat.: 9AM to noon. April 16, 30, May 14, 28; June 11, 25**  
**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); Automotive and light truck tires, (on or off rim) and Propane tanks (BBQ size only)

**CLARIFICATION NOTE:** Tracy Toribio has requested a clarification regarding disposal of **Computers, monitors, laptops and televisions.** As of January 1, 2011, these items **cannot** be put into household trash. However, they **can** be brought to the Harding Twp DPW recycling center at the regular hours of operation. Tracy Toribio of Harding Twp DPW will answer your recycling questions 973 267 2448, Mon- Fri 8:30 am to 3 pm. **A Township-wide Fall Clean-up Day is scheduled for September 26, 2011.**

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

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 Preservtion Comm (1stThursday)	7:30 PM
Board of Health (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday)	8 PM
Board of Education (1st and 3rd Monday)	7:30 PM
Board of Adjustment (3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday)	7:30 PM
Township Committee(3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed)	7:30 PM
Harding Open Space (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed)	7:30 PM
Harding Twp Civic Association (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed)	7:30 PM
Municipal Court- has merged with Madison NJ Court	