

# Harding Township Civic Association

PO BOX 72 ~ NEW VERNON, NEW JERSEY 07976

March 2013

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### ***PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON 2013/14 HARDING SCHOOL BUDGET AT NEXT BOARD MEETING – MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup>, 7:30 PM at the school***

The **Harding Township Historical Society** will host New Jersey historian Joe Bilby at an event on **April 16, 2013 at 7:30PM** at the Tunis-Ellicks House. He will speak on “Interesting NJ People during the Civil War” Members free; non-members \$5

### **ART IN BLOOM Sponsored by Friends of Kemmerer Library**

Friday April 19, 2013 6-10pm; April 20-Art Show continues from 9-1

Gala Biannual Party and Art Show; Christ the King Church; over 60 artists. Information, Carol Conger 973 539 9531; to volunteer, call Bernice Patton 973 539 5168

### **Harding Township Recreation Association – T-Ball registration**

To all those future baseball greats, T-ball season is about to begin. All children entering into kindergarten or first grade should register today. The season is from April 26th to June 7th. All games are on Friday nights from 6-7:00pm at Harding Township school fields. It's a great way to introduce your child to the sport. Registration runs from now until March 30th. The fee is \$50 until the March 15th. After the 15th until the 30th the fee increases to \$75, so register early. If you have any questions, please call Jennifer Flanagan at 973-644-3044 or Email at [flanagans@verizon.net](mailto:flanagans@verizon.net). If you are interested in being a Coach, Assistant Coach or Team Mother please let us know.

### **Harding Township Senior Citizens**

Come join your neighbors and friends at the Harding Township Seniors meeting, held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at Church of Christ the King. We have trips, speakers and luncheons. For more information, please call Mary Crummy at (973) 267-8032.

### **HARDING TOWNSHIP PLANNING BOARD**

All residents, along with all Committee and Board Members, are invited to attend the Harding Township Planning Board's Regular Meeting scheduled for **Monday, April 22, 2013**, at 7:30PM at the Municipal Building, Kirby Hall, 21 Blue Mill Road, New Vernon. The purpose is to discuss the draft Reexamination Report on the Harding Township Master Plan & Development Regulations (see link below). At that time, the Planning Board will present the draft report and take questions, comments and statements from all participants. This meeting will receive input on the elements of the Reexamination Report *only*. The Master Plan, as a whole, will not be addressed. Copies of the draft Reexamination are available on the Planning Board's website

# Harding Township Civic Association

PO BOX 72 ~ NEW VERNON, NEW JERSEY 07976

(<http://www.hardingnj.org/boardscommissionscommittees/planning-board.html>) or you may contact Margot Kaye at 973-267-8000, ext. 1951, or [mkaye@hardingnj.org](mailto:mkaye@hardingnj.org).

## **KEMMERER LIBRARY**

Spring operating hours: **Monday-Friday: 10-5. Saturday: 10-1. Sunday: 12-3.** We look forward to seeing you soon!

**Children's Programs: Storytime: Tuesdays, 10:30 am.** Children aged 1-4 listen to stories, sing songs and do a craft. **Wednesdays, 11 am: Pre-K Play Group and Lunch Bunch.** Games, play, socialize, and bring your lunch. **Baby Play Group: Thursdays, 10:30 am.** Moms and babies, 6 months-12 months of age, meet to play/chat and sing songs.

**Children's Special Events: Legos & Games, Sunday at 3pm, March 17.** Get your creative juices going with the Library's huge Lego collection, or bring a friend or two for a game of Snakes and Ladders. All other Sundays, drop in between 12-3pm to play games. **TEDDY BEAR**

**PARTY, Wednesday, March 20, 4:00 p.m.:** Celebrate the beginning of spring – and end of hibernation – at the Library. Bring a favorite stuffed animal and join Miss Jen for an hour of stories, games and treats.

**The New Jersey Shore: History and Future: March 19th & April 16th, 10:30 am.** After Hurricane Sandy many New Jersey residents wondered if our beautiful beaches and coastline will ever be the same. Join us for two fascinating lectures on the Jersey Shore and get some of your questions answered. On **March 19<sup>th</sup>**, Author and raconteur, Kevin Woyce, describes the rich history of the Jersey Shore. On **April 16<sup>th</sup>**, Professor Ken Miller of Rutgers University discusses the impact of environmental changes on the beaches and towns along the Jersey shoreline.

**New! iPad Club:** The enthusiasm of iPad users and owners-to-be at our recent Tech Tuesday has launched the formation of a new iPad Club. The format will be a monthly one-hour meeting moderated by an iPad expert who will showcase useful shortcuts, new apps, and hands on one-on-one trouble shooting. If you are interested in joining, please call us at 973-267-2665 or send an email to [desk@hardinglibrary.org](mailto:desk@hardinglibrary.org)

**Tech Tuesday, Microsoft Excel (Part 2), March 21, at 4-5pm.** Beginners and the merely curious are welcome. *Registration required please.*

**Curl up by the Fire with 50 great books – Borrow a Kindle:** The Library offers pre-loaded Kindles on two-week loan for Harding residents. 20 new titles have recently been added to each of our Kindle collection of best-sellers, classic fiction, non-fiction and more. **New!** We now have 5 Kindles set aside just for local book clubs. If your book group is planning to read a hard-to-get title, ask us about having it downloaded to our book club Kindles.

**Yarn Circle Knitting Club, alternate Wednesdays, 1-2 pm.** Join the next class led by two experienced crafters on **March 13 and 27.** Join us for conversation, inspiration and instruction by the fireplace. For beginners and experienced knitters alike.

**Mat Yoga: Mondays at 10:00 am. Gentle Chair Yoga: Mondays & Wednesdays at 10:45-11 am.** MJ Turnbull's classes are good for both body and soul. All are welcome. A donation of \$10 per session is suggested.

# Harding Township Civic Association

PO BOX 72 - NEW VERNON, NEW JERSEY 07976

**Evening Book Group, Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm.** Please note the change to Thursday evenings for our Book Club. March's selection is *Zoobiquity* by Barbara Natter-Horowitz and Kathryn Bowers. Join us for an engaging discussion. No registration necessary. See the website for upcoming selections.

**Bridge Club.** Our Bridge Club is taking a winter break until early April.

**Mah Jongg Club, Thursdays, 12-2 pm:** Beginner and intermediary play. New members welcome. Registration and information at the Library. Modest instruction fee.

The **Harding Township Road Side Clean-up Day** will be held on **Saturday, April 20th**, from **9AM until Noon**. We need your help to keep maintain the rural beauty of our town. Meet at **Town hall** to get a street assignment where you can go pick-up road side debris. Gloves, safety vests, garbage bags, will be provided. Free tee shirts and refreshments will be provided to all participants (while they last). This is great opportunity for students to earn community service hours. Rain date will be Sunday, April 21st. Please be sure to wear sunscreen and bug spray. **Harding, Clean and Green!** Brought to you by the **Harding Township Environmental Commission and Department of Public Works**.

## **HARDING TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

### **Health Screenings:**

The Health Department is having a free Female Cancer Screening on Thursday, March 28, 2013, from 9 am to 11 am at the Municipal Building. The screening includes an exam by a doctor, PAP test, blood pressure, and educational materials. An appointment is necessary.

Male Cancer Screening is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17, 2013 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Municipal Building. The screening includes an exam by a doctor, blood work, and educational material. An appointment is necessary.

A free Adult Health Fasting Blood-work clinic will be held on Thursday, April 25, 2013, from 8 am to 11 am at the Municipal Building. An appointment is necessary.

The above clinics are for residents 18 years of age and older. To schedule an appointment for the above clinics, please call 973-267-8000, ext.1968. **Health Hot Line: 973/267-8000 ext 1962.**

## **HTRA SUMMER DAY CAMP – 2013 ENROLLMENT IS NOW OPEN!**

The Harding Twp. Recreation Association is pleased to offer its Summer Day Camp program this year from Monday July 1 through Friday July 26. (We will however be closed on Thursday July 4<sup>th</sup> in observance of Independence Day). Campers can enroll for as many weeks as they wish. Camp hours are from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.-

The HTRA Day Camp has been operating for over 35 years and offers programs for children from 3-12 years of age. Located at the Harding Township School in New Vernon, the daily activities include Arts & Crafts, Swimming, Sports & Games, Computer Lab and other fun activities. The Polliwog program is offered for 3 and 4 year olds and runs from 9 am – Noon, with

# Harding Township Civic Association

PO BOX 72 ~ NEW VERNON, NEW JERSEY 07976

the option to enroll for the extended day program which runs till 3 pm. We also offer a science enrichment program for grades 1-4 and swimming lessons for children entering Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade, for an additional fee.

The Camp Director, LuAnn Romano is an Harding resident, Elementary School Teacher for over 35 years and has been with the HTRA Camp for over 35 years.

Enroll early before it's too late! For more information and enrollment forms visit our website at [www.hardingtowshipdaycamp.com](http://www.hardingtowshipdaycamp.com) , email us at [promano59@comcast.net](mailto:promano59@comcast.net) or call us at 973-326-1775.

## **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Bears:** The WMC reminds all that the award winning DVD "Living with NJ Black Bears" is available for loan at the Kemmerer Library. NJ residents may also order their own free copy (one per household) from the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife. Use the online order form at [http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/bearfacts\\_dvd-order.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/bearfacts_dvd-order.htm) or reach Michelle Smith at 609-259-6961 or [Michelle.Smith@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:Michelle.Smith@dep.state.nj.us)

In its efforts to control the Canada geese population in Harding Township, the Wildlife Management Committee is asking residents to help identify locations where Canada geese might be nesting in the Township. Volunteers are ready to assist by treating eggs so that they will not hatch (called addling), using methods approved by the Fish & Wildlife Service. If you have a body of water on or near your property, or have seen goslings in prior years, it is likely that you will have nests again this year. Harassing birds during the nesting season, or removing eggs from nests is counter productive, because it will encourage the birds to re-nest out of sight, where eggs can't be found or effectively treated.

Early identification of bird pairs and nesting sites does much to assure the process. Migratory geese will leave the area by the end of March. Resident bird pairs will then be more visible, usually claiming an area and keeping other pairs away. If you think your property is a potential nesting site, if you see obvious pairs, would like to learn more about what to look for or need help in spotting or treating nests, please contact the Committee at [khmeister3@gmail.com](mailto:khmeister3@gmail.com), (973) 605 8274 or [r.a.shields@att.net](mailto:r.a.shields@att.net), (973) 267-5673.) A property conducive to nesting should be monitored weekly throughout the nesting season, which starts in late March and ends mid May. For help and best results, please call us sooner rather than later. Addling eggs controls the growth of the goose population. Done properly, it is both, humane and effective!

## **TOWNSHIP NEWS:**

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE – February 11, 2013

Prior to the public meeting, there was a closed Executive session in which the committee members discussed police contract negotiations and personnel. Next, the minutes for the January 9, 2013 meeting were approved.

# Harding Township Civic Association

PO BOX 72 - NEW VERNON, NEW JERSEY 07976

There was a presentation by United Federal Data, LLC, which is seeking town approval to install, operate and maintain 3 new fiber optic cables onto existing utility poles. The path would be as follows: from Basking Ridge, follow Lees Hill Road, turn right onto Long Hill Road, then left onto Pleasantville Road, right onto Village Road, left onto Spring Valley Road, right onto Loantaka Way/Chatham Township. The Committee requested additional information regarding Township access to this cable for the school or for the municipal building. The vendor's representative noted that unless the town and school would be responsible for installation costs between their sites and the proposed cable run. Further discussion and action by the town to be continued at a later date.

The 2013 town budget ordinance was introduced and discussed. Unused funds go into a Cap bank for up to 2 years, after which they are no longer available.

An ordinance which would modify zoning regulations along utility easements to allow tree trimming and removal was introduced and discussed.

The following resolutions were discussed and approved: TC 13-051 February bill list; TC 13-052 agreement for Township Engineer; TC 13-053 energy supplier Energy Auction; TC 13-054 police hiring process; TC 13-055 consulting contract to Jersey Professional Management (for ongoing consulting services after contract negotiations and BlueShield recommendations); TC 13-056 full time hire of secretary for Board Of Health; TC 13-057 full time hire of Deputy Clerk; TC 13-058 authorizes part time Planning Board administrator and receptionist.

## **An Evening With the Mayor – February 20, 2013**

This annual event, sponsored by the Harding Township Civic Association, was an opportunity for citizens to meet our Mayor, Lou Lanzerotti, and ask questions and exchange ideas in what was an informal and relaxed meeting. Lanzerotti opened with some comments before taking questions from the public. He said he was pleased and honored to be serving again. He mentioned that policy is not discussed as much as it should be, but said this forum was an opportunity.

Lanzerotti emphasized that municipal independence is the "primary policy driver" of HT government. That is making sure that Harding is fiscally responsible so that it can remain independent from county and forced consolidation. This goal has to be balanced with demands for public safety, emergency preparedness and appropriate care for employees.

He also said that we must ask, "What kind of town do we want?" He said his vision is for a friendly town, where people say hello at the post office, where essential services are provided, where volunteerism is demonstrated and valued and where there is an open feeling and open space. He said we could maintain this IF we maintain our independence.

The Lanzerotti ticked off detailed area of emphasis for 2013:

# Harding Township Civic Association

PO BOX 72 ~ NEW VERNON, NEW JERSEY 07976

- Re-emphasis on the importance and responsibilities of the boards, commissions and committees that serve Harding and the TC members who serve as liaisons. There will be a meeting of the chairs very soon.
- Public safety examination that will include the officer-in-charge, consultants, and the Morris County Sheriff.
- Employee Review System with an attempt to establish some quantitative measures.
- Review of departments for purpose of increasing efficiency and effectiveness.
- Assessment of professional services that are hired by HT including attorneys and engineers and consultants.
- Review technologies employed by the Township.

The mayor closed his comments by re-emphasizing that the primary policy objective is maintaining Harding's independence.

The public then had a chance to participate with questions and comments:

Q. How do towns get into trouble and lose their independence? Ans: Poor fiscal management and too much debt. Not just Camden but Princeton and Princeton Township.

Q. What are we doing to share services, and costs, with other towns? Ans: Emergency Dispatch (with the County), Joint Court (with Madison and Chatham) and Health Officer (with Hanover).

The Mayor elaborated that these agreements must be managed to ensure the fair allocation of costs and expenses between towns.

Q. Police and Public Safety – what is the status of the PBA contract negotiation? This is the largest single expense for HT. The negotiation is “just beginning” from December to now. The fraction of benefit costs paid by employees will rise over time. Nothing more to add at this time.

Q. Was there any output or report from the Cell Tower Advisory Committee? This committee was formed two years ago when a cellular company wanted to install an antenna tower to improve coverage on I-287 are they are required by their license. The CTA Committee will be folded into the Planning Board. The CTA looked at available sites, met with the cellular carrier applicant and recommended that the site on a lot between I-287 and Rt 202 (owned by the Dept of Transportation) NOT be ruled out. The CTA has not met in some time. The application by the cell phone company is still ongoing and it now is at the HT Board of Adjustment. The Bd of Adjustment can only rule on the application. It cannot suggest other sites. Appeals to the Bd of Adjustment go to the Township Committee, some thing which has happened only 2 times in 22 years. Committeeman Ned Ward said that Mendham citizens fought a tower placement “all the way to the Supreme Court” and lost. Towns do not have the ability to tell utilities where to place towers or telephone poles.

Q. Why doesn't JCP&L bury the electrical wires so they aren't damaged in storms? It was pointed out that the power outages were caused both by downed wires and damaged substations. Further the cost of burying wires is estimated at over \$1M per mile. With 57.5 miles of road, this would be prohibitive for Harding even if one excluded the 9 miles of federal and state roads. The TC has weighed in with letters to JCP&L and the Board of Public Utilities about the poor information given during the Sandy Storm.

# Harding Township Civic Association

PO BOX 72 - NEW VERNON, NEW JERSEY 07976

Q. How much debt do we have? About \$9m, down from \$16mm.

Q. Does the EMT and Fire Department need volunteers? Audience member said the fire department is in good shape but that the EMT is in need of volunteers. A member of the public pointed out that regulations on hours of training and paperwork, etc. Continuously rise rapidly making it very difficult for volunteers to get and stay qualified. It's as if Trenton wants to eliminate volunteer departments with the likely impetus coming from union lobbyists.

Q. Why do we share out Board of Health officer with Hanover rather than with a closer town? A. Distance doesn't matter. It was the credentials and certifications that were critical.

Q. Is the large expense to deal with a litigious resident still ongoing? A. Yes.

## ***Harding Township Civic Association annual public meeting – February 20, 2013***

The Harding Township Civic Association held its annual public meeting immediately prior to the Evening with the Mayor, at which time the following were elected by those present to be trustees for 3 years: Gwenn Claytor, Hesna Pfeiffer, Ellie Weiner, Martha McDonnell and Richard Olsen. The following were elected by those present to represent the trustees on the Civic Association board: President – Dan Henegan; Vice President – Jake Hays; Secretary – Martha McDonnell; Thumbnail Editor – Hesna Pfeiffer; Memorial Day Parade Chair – Lotte Newlin.

## **PLANNING BOARD MEETING JANUARY 28, 2013**

Declaration of Appointments by the Township Committee: Pending the election of officers, the meeting was called to order by Ms. Kimball. She announced the appointments to the Board of Mr. Newlin and Ms. DiTosto to one-year terms, and Mr. Dietz and Mr. Edgar to four-year terms. Currently, no alternates have been appointed. She also asked the Board members to sign the oath of office to uphold their duties.

### 2013 Reorganization

Mr. Saulnier was unanimously elected Chairman, and Ms. Olcott was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman.

### Announcements/Reports/Presentations

- Ms. DiTosto reported that the cell tower committee had not met; the committee is under review by the Township Committee and is not currently constituted.
- Mr. Saulnier reported that he got two emails from another town regarding age restricted housing; the age restriction had been lifted so younger people can move in.
- Mr. Schliefer reported that revised cell tower plans changing the site configuration had been submitted to the Board of Adjustment. Five carriers are projected for the future, but currently there are only two, so the site would be partially constructed.

### Discussion

Ms. Kimball continued a review of the 1/25/13 preliminary draft of the Master Plan Reexamination. Changes on substantive issues are being tracked and comments are being captured. Consideration is being given to modernizing B2 regulations to allow two-family homes.

# Harding Township Civic Association

PO BOX 72 ~ NEW VERNON, NEW JERSEY 07976

Also, other regulations (e.g., state) are being examined for impact to the master plan. Mr. Saulnier wondered whether the Board should have a public meeting regarding the reexamination and how it should be publicized. It was agreed that the Board would review a final report at the March meeting and invite the public to the April meeting. Letters would be sent to the chairs of other boards and committees to allow discussion at those entities. Ms. Olcott mentioned the building area calculation ordinance that the Board of Adjustment asked the Board to review. Accessory structures built before 1945 can get a calculation waiver, and the ordinance is being fixed to give discretion in granting waivers.

## **HARDING OPEN SPACE TRUST, February 13**

**Primrose Preserves/Barrett Field:** Ms. Bologna informed HOST that The Great Swamp Watershed Association would like to construct an access trail for public use from Barrett Field to the upper Primrose Preserves pastures. The Great Swamp Watershed Association would construct this access trail with its volunteers and prepare some nature photography. Ms. Bologna presented a map of the area and trail. There will be no cost to Harding Township to build the trail. In response to a question, Ms Bologna stated that the concerns of the three residents located on Brook Drive South have been addressed. After more discussion, Ms. Bologna informed HOST that a letter from the Harding Land Trust and the Great Swamp Watershed Association outlining the entire project will be sent to Ms. McKane for inclusion in the Township Committee meeting in March. Ms. McKane mentioned that the Great Swamp Watershed Association would need to fill out a Use of Facilities form and should coordinate their volunteers with the Land Trust. Ms. Bologna informed HOST that the Harding Land Trust will purchase and post signs that will say: Public Access, Please Keep to Trail, etc.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**HOST 2013 Budget** - Mr. MacCowatt discussed HOST's 2013 budget. There was a discussion regarding legal fees, Glen Alpin expenses, and the oil tank at the Gatehouse (O'Connor property). Mr. MacCowatt informed HOST that PSE&G may possibly clean the pine trees that are down from the storm at Barrett Field. Mr. MacCowatt stated that the 2013 HOST draft budget shows a reduction in the open space tax from \$0.0385 to \$0.035, however, the amount of HOST dollars going towards future purchases of open space remains the same. There was a general discussion about the budget. Upon a motion made by Mr. Pfeiffer that the Harding Open Space Trust Committee recommends to the Harding Township Committee that the open space tax allocation be reduced from \$0.0385 to \$0.035, seconded by Mr. Jones, Ms. DiTosto abstained, and with all members in agreement, the motion was accepted.

**Frelinghuysen Fields:** Ms. Bologna made a presentation regarding Frelinghuysen Fields and developments at the County level to secure funding. As HOST initially presented to the Township Committee, Harding Land Trust asked Morris County Open Space Committee for funding for two properties; Lot 19 and Lot 4.03. The Morris County Open Space Committee decided to split the request into two separate projects for funding. The Morris County Freeholders then considered the request for funding for Lot 19 (which includes Lot 75 located in Morris Township). They



# Harding Township Civic Association

PO BOX 72 ~ NEW VERNON, NEW JERSEY 07976

approved \$2,075,000 for Lot 19, which is \$200,000 less than requested. On a separate track with respect to Lot 4.03, Ms. Bologna informed HOST that the Land Trust will seek out Green Acres funds and apply to the Morris County Open Space Trust in June 2013.

Morris County had the additional \$200,000 to put toward the Lot 19 project, but they chose not to do so. The Land Trust has approached several parties to cover the shortfall, but has not been successful. Ms. Bologna requested that HOST consider making a recommendation to the Township Committee that \$200,000 of Harding pen space funds be used towards the completion of the purchase of Lot 19. A discussion ensued regarding the different ways to address ownership and funding issues. Members agreed that the recommended approach is for the Township to purchase an easement across the fields. The Township will have no maintenance responsibilities. The motion was made that the Harding Open Space Trust Committee recommend to the Harding Township Committee the purchase of an easement on Lot 19, known as Frelinghuysen Fields, on terms to be negotiated between the Township and the Harding Land Trust, having a value of \$200,000. Mr. Weppler noted for the record that his wife is a Trustee for the Harding Land Trust. Ms. DiTosto asked that the presentation materials be posted to the Township's website. **Other:**

As a follow-up to HOST's January 2013 meeting, members discussed establishing a subcommittee to review HOST properties and recommend if any maintenance is needed on these properties. Mr. Morgan, Ms. Olsen, Ms. Ward, and Mr. Weppler volunteered to be on the subcommittee. Mr. Morgan was appointed the chair of this subcommittee.

## **BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**, February 21, 2013

Roll Call – all board members present less Joe Schleifer

Minutes – site inspection minutes for #BOA-12-12 2 Hartley Farms Road – approved

Meeting minutes from BOA meeting held January 17, 2013 approved (#BOA-22-11: 679 Mount Kemble Avenue, Block 27, Lot 2, Zone RR: Harding Holdings – Hurstmont property application deferred to March 21, 2013 meeting)

Pending application

#BOA-12-12: 2 Hartley Farms Road, Block 4, Lot 44 Zone RR

C variance for emergency generator installation side yard variance approved.

New applications

#BOA-01-13: 8 Spencer Place, Block 9 Lot 20

The current building has a non-conforming side yard setback, the proposed additions would change the lot coverage from 10.2% to 10.8%. The proposed improvements would “normalize” (make straight and clean) the front profile of the house and roof line, enlarge the kitchen, add a ½ bath and expand the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. After completion of the site inspection conducted Saturday, March 2, the application was approved with a request to find ways to reduce lot coverage.

#BOA-02-13: 157 Village Road, Block 10, Lot 18

C variance for front yard placement of 12 kw natural gas emergency generator (to serve well pump for 3 buildings). Due to the distance (400 feet) of the proposed generator from Village

# Harding Township Civic Association

PO BOX 72 ~ NEW VERNON, NEW JERSEY 07976

Road and the promise by the applicant to provide adequate screening, this application was approved.

## Pending application

#BOA-23-10: 501 Tempe Wick Road, Block 33, Lot 9, Zone RR: Cell Tower

Public comment and questions were completed as were summations both by the applicant's attorney and the Board's counsel.

Residents voiced their opposition to the tower based on fears of declining residential property values, permanent damage to the viewscape, proximity to historic preservation districts, proximity to protected wetlands, noise from the emergency generators to be deployed to support the tower when power is out and potential hazard from radio waves emitted from the tower.

The public was reminded by the board that hearsay from third parties not present at the meeting could not be used in the BOA's consideration of the application, only sworn expert testimony. The BOA has heard sufficient expert testimony regarding signal gaps and radio wave emissions throughout the lengthy course of application hearings.

The applicant's attorney summarized by stating the following:

- This application complies with all Federal and State requirements with regard to radio wave emissions limits.
- The applicant has agreed to install the artificial tree treatment below the tree line.
- The landscape plan has been approved by the church, town planner and applicant with provision for reasonable future field adjustments if necessary.

The BOA's counsel then summarized the key issues facing the Board in its consideration of this application. They are:

- The applicant is requesting that the following variances: a use variance for the church property/commercial use; a height variance for the tower structure; a lot coverage variance for the addition of the tower compound; a front setback variance for the compound.
- The New Jersey Supreme Court has effectively granted favored status for the location of cell tower installations where proven service gaps exist.
- The Federal Communications Commission, which oversees cellular telephone operations, rules that there can be no discrimination between providers, no entity may prevent service to a provider and that only substantiated evidence may be used to deny an application for cell tower installations.

The next BOA meeting will be held on Thursday, March 21, at which time it is likely a motion will be made to accept or deny the cell tower application. Along with any new applications, the Hurstmont application testimony will also resume.

# Harding Township Civic Association

PO BOX 72 - NEW VERNON, NEW JERSEY 07976

## **HARDING TOWNSHIP SCHOOL**

**Public Discussion on 2013/14 School Budget at next Board Meeting – March 25<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Highlights, Board of Ed Meeting February 25**

#### Search for a new principal

- About 50 applied
- Narrowed to a dozen or so
- Interviews to be conducted in early March
- Hiring of teachers for vacancies to await new Principal to participate

Graduating Class – 28 students, some will go to Madison (perhaps 18), others to attend private schools. Discussion: how well do our students transition to Madison – mixed reviews from parents, however our graduates from Madison do quite well.

#### Budget

- Strategy for Budget Preparation - some costs will go up but the tax levy will only increase by 1.5%
- Less than 2% overall increase, so will not be voted/approved by Township
- Final guidance from State forthcoming in early March – prevents finalization
- State aide anticipated at \$225K
- Surplus of \$175K from previous years will be appropriated as contingency to cover unknowns/surprises
- Details presented at March 4<sup>th</sup> BoE meeting
- Public hearing at the March 25<sup>th</sup> BoE meeting

#### Student Testing and the use thereof

The several tests that Harding uses to assess student performance were discussed. The state mandated NJ ASK is a half-day effort given once per year to all students in grades 3 thru 8. The MAP (measure of academic progress) is a new initiative of the Board given three times a year taking only 45 – 60 minutes for each of the three (math, language, & reading) test areas to help see where each student (and the school) is relative to their national peers. Also is the OLSAT (known as Otis-Lennon School Ability Test) which was given in the past and which is now being reinstated. How these could be effectively utilized was explored by the Board.

Tennis Courts The site plan for a multi-sport platform which would accommodate tennis (& other sports) has been submitted to the town & approved, contingent upon the resolution of the increased impervious area the platform would create. Discussion with the town will continue.

Solar Panels The Board of Ed was approached by the Harding Township Environmental Committee who proposed placing solar panels on fields owned by the school. It was felt that this would prevent the use of the field in the future and so the opportunity was declined. The Board remained open for opportunities for solar panels on rooftops and other ideas to achieve savings and reduce environmental footprint.

“Outside student enrollment” Students from outside our district may attend Harding School – just as if we were a private school – for a fee of about \$8500, comparable to the our cost per student. Currently we have several.

# Harding Township Civic Association

PO BOX 72 - NEW VERNON, NEW JERSEY 07976

## Highlights - Board of Education Meeting –March 4, 2013

A presentation of the ten million dollar “tentative” budget for the fiscal year/school year 2013-2014 was made by Superintendent Anemone, and then approved by the Board. It is called “tentative” because it must be reviewed by the county and be funded by the township and the state. Once money is in hand, and changes, if necessary, are made, it will no longer be “tentative”. Under the new law, a tax levy increase of less than 2% is not voted on by the citizens – and since this year’s tax levy increase will be 1.5% - such will be the case here. There will be, however, a “Public Hearing” on the subject at the upcoming March 25<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

Teachers from the I&RS Committee briefed the Board on the workings of the Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) team whose goal is early detection and intervention with students who may be having difficulties. This activity has reduced the need to refer problem students to the CST (Child Study Team) – indeed 11 students were handled by the I&RS such that only 3 needed the help of the CST.

Discussions continued from the February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding implementation and use of the various assessment tests which are going to be given to the students.

One HIB (Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying) case, which occurred since the last Board meeting, was investigated and acted upon as reported by Dr. Anemone. During the open discussion period which followed, the parents of one boy who apparently had been bullied or harassed, suggested if more could be done in detecting such cases, for instance, encouraging and supporting students who witness harassment to come forward to report the instance. The Board appreciated the comments and will take the matter under advisement.

*(Note: the purpose of these brief reports is to help Harding residents connect with the School by highlighting the significant items addressed by the Board. The “meeting minutes” are filed by the Board Secretary and placed on the Harding School website for all to view, generally about a month after the meeting date.)*

**NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL:** Students in grades three through six in the gifted and talented programs of six Morris County public schools (Chester, Harding, Mendham, Morristown, Mt. Arlington, and Netcong) and the Wilson School in Mountain Lakes, are participating in a program sponsored by the New Jersey Consortium for Gifted and Talented, Inc and the Morris County Historical Society. In the fall the children attended a workshop on creating a museum quality exhibit and how to do historical research. They then spent three months doing research on their communities to find out what is unique about their individual towns. They created a multi-faceted display of their research with artifacts, pictures and reports. In January, they presented their own museum quality exhibits about their towns to officers of the Historical Society and also to their peers. Their research presentations will be displayed at the Morris County Historical Society at Acorn Hall in an exhibit entitled “My Town: Through a Child’s Eyes.” The Exhibit will open to the public on April 28 and run until June 2 at Acorn Hall. Each district will hold a Reception at the Exhibit for town officials, school officials and parents.

# Harding Township Civic Association

PO BOX 72 ~ NEW VERNON, NEW JERSEY 07976

The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at Harding Township School will host their reception at Acorn Hall on April 30<sup>th</sup> from 4pm-6pm. All are welcome to come and see the wonderful displays created by all the school districts.

## Civic Association News and Announcements

**Civic Association:** The DEADLINES FOR THE next 2 issues OF THE THUMBNAIL are April 5 and May 3. 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 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, March 23; April 6 and 20; May 4 and 18.**

**Commingled Recyclables:** consists of all aluminum and tin cans, glass bottles, and only plastic bottles and containers with the Recycling symbol #1 #2, and 4, 5, and 7. 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)

**Computers, monitors, laptops and televisions 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.

# Harding Township Civic Association

PO BOX 72 ~ NEW VERNON, NEW JERSEY 07976

**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 Preservation Comm (1stThursday)	7:30 PM
Board of Health (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday)	7:30 PM
Board of Education (1st and 3rd Monday)	7:30 PM
Board of Adjustment (3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday)	7:30 PM
Township Committee(2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon)	7:30 PM
Harding Open Space (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed)	7:30 PM
Harding Twp Civic Association (3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed)	7:30 PM