

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

"Keeping Harding Informed Since 1971"

www.HardingCivic.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING Events

May 2017

HESNA PFEIFFER AWARD FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Call for Nominations

Hesna Pfeiffer, a long time HTCA Trustee and Thumbnail editor, was fiercely dedicated to the mission of the Civic Association -- to foster an informed and engaged citizenry. To honor her legacy upon her untimely passing, the trustees renamed the annual Distinguished Citizen Award to the Hesna Pfeiffer Award for Civic Engagement. Along with renaming the award, the trustees broadened the scope of the award to recognize individuals or groups whose more recent actions have benefited Harding Township; this way we can celebrate selfless actions of citizens of all ages - young, old and in between.

We ask our readers to reflect on the past year and recognize a person or group you feel has contributed to making Harding a great place. Your nomination for the 2017 Hesna Pfeiffer Award for Civic Engagement, along with a brief explanation, should be e-mailed to Submission@hardingcivic.org. If you prefer, mail your nomination to the HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION at PO Box 72, New Vernon, NJ 07976.

HARDING LAND TRUST

Upcoming Events

The Harding Land Trust Biennial House and Garden Tour will be held on Monday, June 5th. There will be 17 fabulous and unique boutique vendors available and open to the public at the Church of Christ the King from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please come and join the fun as you shop for graduation, teacher and hostess gifts and perhaps pick up something wonderful for yourself! Items on sale will include luxury handmade hats, personalized American made leather goods, handcrafted crocheted precious gemstone jewelry, premium stylish men's socks and much, much more! A complete list of vendors is available on the website at www.hardinglandtrust.org.

The Harding Land Trust welcomes you to CAMP OUT on Saturday, June 3rd, 2017. We welcome all Harding children from the ages of 6 to 12 years old and a parent to camp out with us at Primrose Farm, 15 Brook Drive South in Harding. Follow the trail to meet under the big tree. Leave your phone, boom box, electric toothbrush and large screen TV at home. On this camp out, we will listen to the music of the insects, taste a fire pit meal and watch a cosmic light show. The camp out will take place between Saturday, June 3rd at 4 p.m. to breakfast on Sunday June 4th. Activities will include a scavenger hunt, wiffle ball, s'more roasting, flashlight tag, story time and more. Please bring a tent, sleeping bag, change of clothes, flashlight, one gallon of water per person, mud boots and insect repellent. The land trust will provide dinner, breakfast and entertainment. The fee is \$10 per child, \$15 per adult. Please RSVP by May 26th to jordan@hardinglandtrust.org. Space is limited. In the event of rain, the event will be cancelled and fees refunded.

HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION

2017 HARDING TOWNSHIP MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

SAVE THE DATE

We urge all our veterans, young and old, who have served our country, to march in the **Harding Memorial Day Parade on Monday May 29th** and accept the gratitude of our citizens. The parade steps

off at 0930 hours from Harding Township School. For more information email Jake Hays at jakehays2d@aol.com

HARDING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We are planning our Open House for the day of the Memorial Day Parade, Monday, May 29th, 2017. We will be at the Tunis-Ellicks House immediately following the events at Memorial Park. Please stop by and say hello.

NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

NVVFD Auxiliary Fundraiser: Somerset Patriots Voucher Program

How would you like to take your family to an affordable, family-friendly, close-to-home baseball game while at the same time supporting your New Vernon Volunteer Fire Dept.? The NVVFD Auxiliary is selling fundraising vouchers to the Somerset Patriots Minor League baseball games in Bridgewater. The vouchers are \$10.00 each, and can be redeemed for an upper box seat for any 2017 home game of your choice. (Just bring the voucher to the ticket window when you want to go see a game.) Tickets will be for sale at the Auxiliary Bake Sale on Election Day, June 6th at town hall, along with a few select Spring Saturdays outside the New Vernon Post Office. Or just contact any NVVFD Aux. member. For more information, please call Connie or Nick Cherrillo @ 973-539-9383.

NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND FIRST AID SQUAD

Annual Steak and Lobster Dinner FRIDAY June 2, 2017 6pm

Seating and Food orders begin at 5:30pm; service at 6:00pm. Food is served until approximately 10:00pm or when the food runs out!!! Dinner Selection Includes Steak, Lobster, Chicken and Hamburgers (for Kids only); All dinners include Salad Bar, Baked Bread, French fries, Beer, Wine, Soda and Homemade Dessert. Steamed Clams and Corn on the Cob are also available. Steak \$20; Lobster \$25; Chicken \$15

All Proceeds go to the New Vernon Fire Company and First aid Squad. The Volunteer Fire Department is completely independent and raises all its own funds without taxpayer support.

NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRST AID SQUAD

Bicycle Safety: The rural setting of Harding and the nice weather attract cyclists to our roads - particularly on weekends. Our narrow roads put vehicles and cyclists in close proximity with each other. Both will have to share the road.

Cyclists should always ride on the right side of the road, ride in single file and always wear a proper fitting helmet. Remember - most cycling accidents are "bike on bike", not "bike on car". Don't follow other cyclists too closely. The greatest hazard of cycling is other cyclists.

Safety Tip: Helmets Save Lives!

Motorists should always pass cyclists safely, slowly and give a wide berth when passing. Be patient, particularly when passing large groups.

There is an excellent website [bicyclesafe.com] which gives good advice to motorists and cyclists citing "10 Ways of How Not to Get Hit by a Car".

Each year large group's tour through our streets. On May 9th around 10 a.m. approximately 700 police officers, as part of the Police Unity Tour [policeunitytour.com.], will caravan through town on its annual ride to Washington, D.C. They will travel via James, Blue Mill, Lee's Hill, Young's, Bailey's Mill and 202. Temporary road and intersection closures will be in effect. The primary purpose of the Police Unity Tour is to raise awareness of law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. Motorists should use extreme caution and patience when encountering large groups of cyclists.

GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

May 2017 Events

Evening Briefing: Using Open Space to Build Storm Resiliency Tuesday, May 9, 2017, 6:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Great Swamp Watershed Association HQ - 568 Tempe Wick Road, Morristown

Join Brooke Maslo of Rutgers cooperative extension to learn more about an exciting collaboration between ecologists, engineers, and landscape architects on a floodplain restoration and open space design in Woodbridge - an urban community badly impacted by hurricane Irene and Superstorm Sandy.

Brooke will share the work she has spearheaded on the restoration and transformation of urban residential areas purchased through blue acres funding into natural habitats, with improved flood storage potential as recreational areas of community open space. This project highlights the benefits of improving storm resiliency in a community and through example showcased how this can be achieved. Registration required. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or by calling 973-538-3500.

Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, May 20, 2017, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Helen Fenske Visitor Center - 32 Pleasant Plains Road, Harding Township

Calling all would-be explorers, adventurers, and buccaneers! The Great Swamp Scavenger Hunt is back for another year of outdoor fun!

Think you know a thing or two about New Jersey's Great Swamp? Then it's time to test your powers of navigation and observation to find out.

Begin the Scavenger Hunt just after **10 a.m.** by checking in at GSWA's **Home Base** under the pavilion at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuges Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center. (The Visitor Center is located just inside the Lee's Hill Road park entrance at 32 Pleasant Plains Road in Harding Township, NJ.)

We will provide you with a route to travel, questions to answer, and a list of treasures to find throughout the 55-square-mile Great Swamp Watershed region. It's your job to navigate to each treasure site, seek answers to the questions and riddles provided, and then return to **Home Base** with all your spoils.

Remember to hurry back to 32 Pleasant Plains Road at **3 p.m.** because your day of pilfering booty will earn you several chances to win some special prizes at our **Scavenger's Tricky Tray!**

A free cookout waits for all who participate, so don't forget your barbecue enthusiasm. We love it when our guests participate in the picnic! Feel free to bring along a covered side dish (to share or not). We'll supply the burgers, dogs, and drinks. Registration required. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or by calling 973-538-3500.

Invasive Plant Identification Workshop: Monday, May 22, 2017, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Morris County Park System's Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center - 247 Southern Boulevard, Chatham Township

What makes a weed a weed? How can you tell your oriental bittersweet from your Japanese barberry and why should you care that you can? Invasive plants are spreading in our forests and open spaces, and harm the environment as they reduce biodiversity and resources for native wildlife. New Jersey spends millions in labor and resources to remove invasives each year. Join us for this informative, hands on session on how to identify New Jersey's top ten least wanted, as we learn from the plants themselves to know both terrestrial and aquatic invasive plants and appropriate native replacements. You'll never look at burning bush in the same way again! This program is being run in conjunction with Morris County Park System's Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center and the Americorps Watershed Ambassador. Registration required. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or by calling 973-538-3500.

Spring Night Hike: Saturday, June 3, 2017 from 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Primrose Farm, Park at Barret Field, Approx. 15 Brook Drive South, Harding Township NJ

Hone your inner naturalist and practice your being-out-after-dark skills with Director of Education and Outreach, Hazel England. She'll guide you through the forests of The 116 acre Primrose Farm preserve, to emerge to the incredible hill top meadow, perfect for exploring the spring night sky. With the mating season in full swing, June is the perfect time to explore the forest in search of active wildlife. We'll listen and look for owls, foxes, spring insects, and other nocturnal creatures. Registration required. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or by calling 973-538-3500.

Annual Home & Garden Tour

Wednesday, June 21, 2017, 10 AM - 3 PM

Beginning from 21 Normandy Parkway, Morris Township

Join GSWA to celebrate the enchanting gardens and elegant estates settled in the midst of the quiet and natural beauty of our beloved region. The cornerstone of this year's tour is the historic Glynallyn Castle, a 32,000 square foot mansion in Morris Township which has been carefully restored in recent years. Full of secret passageways and even a dungeon - this remarkable 66 room home will captivate your imagination. Tickets are \$50 in advance and \$60 at the door. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or by calling 973-538-3500.

BAYNE PARK VOLUNTEERS

The Township's Canada Geese Project, now in its 11th year, is already underway. During the next phase, starting May 15th, Bayne Park, the Church of Christ the King and the Municipal Building property are monitored daily through June 30th. If Canada Geese are found to be present, we humanely teach them that these areas do not provide the safety they are seeking in advance of their annual molt. Specific proven protocols framed around Canada geese behavior are followed. If you would like to know how you can help a little or a lot, please email r.a.shields@att.net or call (973) 267-5673.

HARDING HUMANE SOLUTIONS

Protect small dogs and cats from predators: Wildlife of all kinds are now seeking extra food to feed their new offspring. With many mouths to feed, they often hunt during the day, not just at dawn and dusk. Don't let your small dog, cat or pet rabbit become their next meal.

If you casually store garbage or deliberately feed birds or other wildlife, you will attract air and land predators to feast on the small wildlife you also attract. Those predators will see your small dog or cat as a chunky squirrel and be off with them in an instant.

Never leave a small dog out alone and unprotected. Making the effort to stay outside with them on that potty break can save their life. For longer outdoor time, they need a sturdy enclosure protected on sides and top. A deck or patio provides no protection. Cats are at high risk for predator attack. Giving them an eight foot post to climb can give them some chance against land predators. They have no protection from flying predators.

The heartbreak of losing a pet can make people want to get back at the "culprit." But, killing any wild predator, on or flying over the property, will not protect our pets. Kill the larger predators and the smaller prey animals will proliferate and just draw in more predators. Our pets remain at risk unless we change our behavior.

Wild predators on land and in the air are behaving naturally, responding to what we place before them. Diligently protecting our pets when they are outdoors is worth the effort. Just ask anyone who has had a pet snatched away. PS. Not all predators are "wild". Take the steps necessary to protect your pets from theft, injury or other harm at all times. They are counting on you.

THE RAPTOR TRUST

Save the Date: Sunday, May 21st-Benefit Concert & Auction for The Raptor Trust at the Stirling Hotel, 227 Main Ave, Stirling, NJ. Hawks & owls on site with The Trust's education staff from 2-3:30 PM. Family games. Live auction 2-6PM. Live music from 3:30 to 8PM (with Hub Hollow, Ross Griswold and the Second Line and the Raccoon Ridge Ramblers). Suggested Donation \$5 per person.

HARDING TOWNSHIP/GREEN VILLAGE BRIDLE PATH ASSOCIATION

April & May 2017 Highlights

Donors and Members' Summer Picnic: "*Hold the Date,*" the annual Donors and Members' Summer Picnic is planned for Saturday, June 17 at 4:00 p.m. The Picnic will be held at Crewe Hill, Sand Spring Road, Morristown, NJ. Invitations (eVites), and additional details will be sent soon.

Membership Drive Reminder: "*Calling all Members,*" the HT/GV BPA 2017 Membership Drive is well underway, and we have multiple "renewals" outstanding; therefore, please, complete your 2017 Membership Forms today. If you do not have the Form, and wish to sign up, please visit www.bridlepath.org ([click "Membership"](#) and the Form is at bottom of the Membership Page).

Remember, it's very important that you submit your renewal promptly because to maintain our insurance and right-of-way usage of easements on private property all riders that utilize the Harding Township/Green Village trails, must join.

2nd Quarterly Meeting: The HT/GV BPA 2nd Quarter Meeting was held Tuesday, April 4. Remember, if you are a Landowner or Donor you are also invited, and "welcome" to attend the Association's Quarterly Meetings. If you wish to receive an invitation, please email dorothymccann.dm@gmail.com.

Spring Clinic: Members "*watch your emails*" for the 2017 Spring Clinic. The Spring Clinic will be held at the Show Grounds - date TBD.

Spring Valley Hounds Hunter Pace: The Spring Valley Hounds Hunter Pace will be held in New Vernon on Sunday, June 4th at 9:00 a.m. The course is 8-10 miles with numerous fences. The entry fee is \$50 per rider. Teams go out between 9:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Additional details can be found at www.springvalleyhounds.com.

Trail Maintenance: "Spring Cleaning", to ensure our trail system is in stellar condition for the upcoming Spring/Summer riding season, the BPA will host a Trail Maintenance Day. An email will be distributed to Members and Donors confirming the date(s).

As always, remember no motor vehicles of any type are permitted on the HT/GV Bridle Path Trails!

HARDING TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Township Committee Meeting (3-22-17) - Budgets Adopted

The TC adopted the 2017 Budget in a special meeting on March 22. This was delayed because the regular meeting on March 20 was consumed by the discussion about Glen Alpin. All TC members were in attendance.

The operating budget as adopted was the same as was presented in preliminary form over the last couple months and described in prior Thumbnails. Appropriations (aka spending) total \$8.706 million, up 1% from 2016. Employee compensation (56%) of expenses is budgeted to rise 5% in 2017 driven by a 2% cost of living increase for non-union employees (non-police), a 1% increase rate increase in health insurance, a new hire in DPW and a part-time clerical employee in town hall. As well, pension costs rose almost 12%.

To raise the revenue to pay for this spending, tax will increase 1.8%. As an example, for a property assessed at \$1 million, taxes would increase \$50, from \$2680 to \$2730. But the total property tax bill for this theoretical \$1MM property is over \$11K. Recall that the \$2730 is only for the Harding portion of your property tax bill (about 25%) - pays for HT Police, DPW and town hall functions. Your property bill also includes 4 other taxes: county (25%), county open space (1%), school (46%) and Harding Open Space (4%). Using 2012 as the base, the county and county open space taxes have actually decreased. School, Township and HOST have all increased with School increasing the most.

The TC also approved the capital budget of \$700K. This includes various items - Kirby Hall (\$165.5K), DPW building improvements (\$175K), AV and computer equipment (\$70.5K), roads and basins (\$165K), COAH housing (\$54K), DPW Equipment (\$96K), Salt Storage Dome (\$60K), Vehicle for building dept (\$30K).

Citizens who want more detail can find the presentation slides on the township's website - www.hardingnj.org.

The TC also ratified the Memorandum of Agreement with the PBA, the union representing the police. The prior contract expired 12/31/16. New contract is for 4 years and calls for a 1.5% per year increase in the compensation for the most senior officers. The prior contract had a 1.9% increase in the top step. There was no change in the health care.

The TC passed a resolution setting the rate that Harding police officers are paid for off duty work such as for traffic control for utilities and Wightman's Farm. The new rate, which the vendor pays is \$95/hour; \$10 of which goes to Harding and \$85 goes to the officer. This rate was said to me "in-line with neighboring towns".

Big Decision for Glen Alpin Could Be Imminent

At its next meeting (**April 17, 2017**), the Harding Township Committee is expected to make a decision on "Diversion" scheme to resolve the future of the Glen Alpin property. Interested citizens should attend that meeting to voice their opinion on this issue. This report attempts to summarize the situation.

Glen Alpin is the historic property on the northwest corner of Tempe Wick Road and Route 202. The 9.6 acre site includes a Gothic Revival house and a detached multi-car garage. Harding purchased the property years ago with financing from Harding Open Space funds, State Green Acres and Morris County. The original plan was for restoration of the building and use as an event center. After the purchase, the Township realized that the cost to restore the house was too great and after replacing the roof (cost - over \$800K) and other work, the project was put on hold. Maintenance costs will be about \$25K this year. So GA has sat for years, frustrating attempts to find a resolution.

GA was the proverbial Gordian Knot. Because many parties (NJ and Morris County entities) funded the purchase, HT is not in complete control even though we are the stewards. It can't easily be sold. It can't legally be demolished. And the deteriorated condition and historical restrictions combined with the requirement that work done pay "prevailing wages" (read union scale) to all contractors make the cost to restore the building prohibitive - likely well over \$1mm and perhaps multiple millions. From time to time, hopes were raised that a potential lessee was interested, but those always came to naught.

But over the last several months, township committee persons Dev Modi and Tim Jones have discovered a process by which a municipality can dispose of a property that was acquired with NJ State money. This process, called a diversion, requires an application to the State, demands the purchase of other property (2-4x as much acreage) to compensate for the disposed (diverted) property and can require repayment of grants taken for acquisition and repairs. On the plus side, the diversion (if granted) allows for the removal of encumbrances and modification of historical restrictions. Diversion requires the property be disposed of by auction after which the property might be in the hands of an owner who could do work less expensively because that new owner need not use union labor.

HT hired the consulting firm of Spinelli & Pinto (S&P) to help analyze the options. S&P made a public presentation of their findings at the regular TC meeting on March 20. Most of this report comes from information from S&P's presentation.

There are two types of diversion - public and private. In the somewhat unhelpful definition given, a public diversion is "constructed by or sponsored by a public entity" whereas a private diversion is not "constructed or sponsored by a public entity".

The public/private distinction is critical because if the diversion is deemed private (by NJ Department of Environmental Protection), then HT must acquire TWICE as much land to compensate for the diversion of the Glen Alpin property versus if this was deemed a public diversion.

S&P's analysis also showed that Harding could divert just 3.2 acres (the parcel around the house) of the 9.6 acre property. This is advantageous because the compensating acreage needed to be purchased is one third the amount in a full diversion.

The consultants presented five options and their costs:

1. Partial Diversion, (private scenario)	\$4.81 million
2. Full Diversion (private scenario)	\$11.82 million
3. Partial Diversion (public scenario)	\$2.98 million
4. Full Diversion (public scenario)	\$6.33 million
5. No Action	\$4.74 million

If the consultants' numbers are accurate, the cheapest option is a partial diversion, public scenario.

All the diversion options assume that grants totaling almost \$1.2 million received from Morris County would have to be repaid in full. But there is some indication that HT would not have to be repay the grants in full.

Auction proceeds from the GA sale were estimated at \$694,000 and \$1,000,000 for the partial and full property respectively.

The consultants assumed that compensating acreage to be purchased to replace GA would be purchased for \$286,198 per acre. In a public scenario, HT would have to purchase 6.4 acres (2 x 3.2 acres) or 19.2 acres (2 x 9.6 acres). In the private scenario, HT would have to buy twice as much property. The property would have to be purchased only with Harding funds - no NJ Green Acres or County money for the compensating acres.

The cost of the No Action scenario was considered surprisingly high to some observers. This analysis totaled the costs for 29 years from 2017 to 2045. In this scenario, repair and restoration costs rose from \$50K in 2022, to \$170K in 2045 and total almost \$2.5 million - this for a "No Action" option. The consultants said this annual figure was determined by looking at the costs for the last few years, a period which included the enormous cost to replace the terra cotta roof. A growth rate of 6% was used for the repair/restoration costs.

The TC believes that the cost of the diversion can be accommodated within the existing annual Open Space budget. In the words of committee person Dev Modi, a "diversion allows Harding Township to leverage its commitment to Open Space". So if HT is going to buy open space property as it does frequently, combining a diversion with those purchases allows HT to get out from under GA at the same time and put it in good hands.

The public was assured (1) that there are potential buyers for GA; (2) that there have been preliminarily talks, and (3) that some don't care if there will be some historical restrictions because those would help them get financing

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Upcoming Events

The Center for Musical Excellence presents Branno Cho in recital on **Sunday, April 30 at 3 pm** in the Sanctuary. The recipient of numerous musical prizes, this young cellist recently participated in the prestigious Tchaikovsky competition in Moscow and will make his Carnegie Hall debut in September sponsored by CME. Tickets are \$20 at the door.

The final *Sunday Speaker Series* of the season on **Sunday, May 7 at 11:15 am** in Fellowship Hall will feature Hans Dekker, president of the Community Foundation of NJ since 2003, whose timely topic will be “Sharing the Wealth: Giving Trends in NJ.” He will discuss the interaction of NJ estate/income taxes and their impact on charitable giving in the State. Highlights of the Community Foundation’s work in NJ include human trafficking awareness, the juvenile justice system reform, and public media. All are welcome to this free lecture series.

HARDING TOWNSHIP SENIORS

May Events:

Thursday May 11-11 A M Christ the King Parish Hall

Program: Joanne Cassaro, R.N. Clinical Coordinator of Morristown Medical Center of Pain Management

Topic: Opioids and the Elderly

Thursday -May 25-11A M-Christ the king Parish Hall

Program: Karen Ann Kurlander, Historical Reenactor, formerly of Acorn Hall, Metropolitan Dance Group

Period Performers-- Topic: Shifting Silhouette of Regency & Victorian Styles; Demonstration of Gowns and Underpinnings; Male Complementary Attire.

HARDING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF HEALTH

7 Ways You Can Step into Spring Safely!

It is now officially Spring, even if the weather is still lagging a little! The additional daylight hours and warmer temperatures encourage more of us to spend time playing, walking and jogging outdoors. We should be extra vigilant to ensure the streets are safe for everyone especially as we walk to our destinations.

Safe Walking Tips:

1. Use Crosswalks. When no crosswalks are present, cross from corner to corner. Do not cross mid-block or between parked vehicles.
2. Wait for the walk. If there is no traffic signal, make sure it is clear to cross. Look left, right and then left again before crossing.
3. If there are no sidewalks, walk against traffic so drivers can see you more clearly.
4. Avoid distractions. Heads up, phones down. If you are looking at your phone you may not see a car approaching.
5. Be seen! Although we have more daylight hours in the evenings, the mornings tend to be darker so opt for a bright or reflective accessory or article of clothing so people driving and on bicycles can see you.
6. Watch out for potholes and uneven sidewalks, which tend to be more common after the harsh, fluctuating temperatures in the wintertime.
7. Be prepared for sun glare in the evening hours by wearing a visor or sunglasses. This will help you see oncoming traffic more easily.

Remember to be safe, be seen and be alert. We are all pedestrians!

TransOptions is a Transportation Management Association that works with municipalities to improve pedestrian safety. For more information, please visit www.transoptions.org

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Highlights: Monday March 27, 2017

Board Business. Co-chair of the Board Policy Committee Kim Macaulay guided the Board and the public in attendance in an extensive and lengthy first reading of some 15 Board Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations that require changes, modifications, and/or introduction for 2017. As for the Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations passed on February 27, a large majority of these new Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations are required by state legislative mandates. The topics read at the March 27 meeting are largely devoted to special education matters.

The Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations are posted on the Board website: www.hardingtwp.org. A second reading and passage will occur at the April 24 meeting.

Superintendent Report. Superintendent Matt Spelker reported that his next articulation meeting with the Madison school interim superintendent would be on March 30.

Superintendent Spelker reported that the Harding Middle School play was hugely successful.

The Superintendent also reported that the PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career) exams for 7th and 8th grades began on April 27.

The public hearing on the Harding school budget will occur at the regular Board session on April 24. Budget materials as presented at prior Board meetings are contained on the Board website.

Facilities and Finance. The Board approved unanimously the partial March 2017 bill list in the amount of \$845,361.89.

The Board approved the summer use of the school facilities for a Next Gen STEM Camp. The Camp will utilize Middle School classrooms and outdoor spaces for five weeks: two week periods on July 10-21 or August 14-25 and a one-week period on July 31-August 4. The two, two-week periods will be for entering 6, 7, 8 grades. The one-week interval will be for a junior Camp (entering 3, 4, 5 grades). The cost will be \$400/week.

Material presented to the public at the Board meeting indicated that the hands-on, project-related Camp activities will cover both physical and biological sciences, such as water rockets, coding A-Z for beginners, 3-D printing concepts, growing fast plants, 3-D printed prosthetic hand construction, and CAD and mechanical drafting.

(Note: the purpose of this brief report is to help Harding residents connect with the School by highlighting significant items addressed by the Board and are not "meeting minutes". Those 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.)

HARDING TOWNSHIP EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Annual Public Meeting: will be held on Thursday June 1@ 7PM at t Kemmerer Library.

HARDING TOWNSHIP ENVIROMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Highlights: April 2, 2017

Alf Newlin proposed that the Commission submit an application for a grant from ANJEC for professional help in training people to do a site census. The site census would identify plants at 2 sites on Dickson Mill Road, one a meadow and one a forest, to further assist in determining what species are healthy flora for the environment and the animal population. Volunteers would be welcome. The environmental commission approved that proposal.

Mr. Grady appeared before the Commission to discern the Environmental Commission's position on his proposal to turn an additional structure on his property into a residence for a relative.

HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION:

Thumbnail & Website News and Announcements

If you have a submission for June 2017 Thumbnail please email to: HTCA@mail.com by Friday, May 19, 2017.

MS Word is the preferred format, thank you!

Upcoming Thumbnail Schedule:

September 2017 Thumbnail deadline: August 18th

October 2017 Thumbnail deadline: September 15th

Current and past issues of the Thumbnail, as well as the Directory are available on our Website: www.HardingCivic.org. Send questions or comments about *Thumbnail* to editor to: HTCA@mail.com or PO Box 72 New Vernon, NJ 07976

HARDING TOWNSHIP RECYCLING

2017 Recycling Schedule

MAY	6 TH , 20 TH	JUNE	3 RD , 17 TH
JULY	1 ST , 15 TH , 29 TH	AUG	12 TH , 26 TH
OCT	7 TH , 21 ST	NOV	4 TH , 18 TH
		DEC	2 ND , 16 TH , 30 TH

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Wednesdays: 7 am. - Noon (7- 9am self service)

Every other Saturday: 9 am - noon (see schedule dates)

Commingled Recyclables: Consists of all aluminum and tin cans, glass bottles, all plastic bottles and containers with the Recycling symbol, and #1, 2, 4, 5 & 7. Try to crush plastic bottle to conserve space. Please remember no plastic or paper bags.

Commingled Mixed Fiber: 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), Propane tanks (BBQ size only) and fluorescent bulbs (tube and compact).

E-Waste items accepted: Computers, monitors, laptops and televisions cannot be put into household trash. However, all E-waste items including printers, copiers, fax machines and all computer peripherals can be brought to the Harding DPW recycling center at the regular hours of operation.

Recycling Questions: Please contact Tracy Toribio at Harding Department: 973 267 2448, Mon- Fri 8:30 am to 3 pm.

DATES TO REMEMBER

	Meetings as noted	Time
Environmental Commission	1 st Wednesday	7:30 PM
Seniors: Christ the King Church	2 nd & 4 th Thursday	11:00AM
Planning Board	4 th Monday	7:30 PM
Historical Preservation Committee	1 st Thursday	7:30 PM
Board of Health	2 nd Thursday	7:30 PM
Board of Education	1 st & 3 rd Monday	7:30 PM
Board of Adjustment	3 rd Thursday	7:30 PM
Township Committee	1 st & 2 nd Monday	7:30 PM
Harding Open Space	2 nd Wednesday	7:30 PM
Harding TWP Civic Association	2 nd Tuesday	7:30 PM