

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

“Keeping Harding Informed Since 1971”

www.HardingCivic.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS: January 2017

The **Directory of Community Services** is published as a public service by Harding Township Civic Association and mailed mid-February to every house-hold in Harding Township. We kindly ask each organization to email any changes or updates to HTCA@mail.com by January 20, 2017, please include the name of your organization in the subject line (MS Word document preferred).

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board of Education Meeting Highlights: December 12, 2016

This meeting was held at the earlier time of 6pm in order to allow all present to attend the Harding Municipal Building open house tour showcasing the recent upgrades to the facility which commenced at 7:30, the usual time for the Board of Education meeting.

This was Dr Howard Kotkin’s final Board meeting, having served with distinction for the last two years. Accordingly, he was recognized by the Superintendent and the Board President for his outstanding service. A plaque showing the school sign and the citation was presented, along with many eloquent and heartfelt words of appreciation. He will be replaced this January by newly elected Mr. Bruno, who was in the audience.

It was reported that the recently held Pancake Breakfast fundraiser was exceptionally well attended.

A grant application submitted at the initiative of the Business Administrator was awarded by the No Child Left Behind program which will fund a new teaching position for the Leveled Learning Intervention Program, a value to the District of about \$40,000.

The Board also approved “a day of service” whereby the students would participate in various volunteer service opportunities. Although this had always been done on an ad hoc basis in the past, this year the school is implementing a comprehensive, coordinated and school-wide effort, developed by the School’s Principal/Director of Curriculum, Ms. Mary Donohue. The assignments are as follows:

- Grade 2 - Cora Hartshorn Arboretum, Short Hills
- Grade 3 - Grow it Green, Morristown
- Grades 4 & 5 - PG Chambers School, Cedar Knolls
- Grade 6 - Community Soup Kitchen
- Grades 7 & 8 - Community Food Bank, Hillside

Meeting Highlights: Meeting November 28, 2016

Exemplary Elementary Educator. *Jennifer Baldassari*, Middle School Language Arts teacher was honored by the New Jersey Department of Education as a *2016 Exemplary Elementary Educator*. The Harding Board of Education honored Mrs. Baldassari at its meeting with a unanimous Motion that recognized her “ability to inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn, for her clear vision of quality teaching and learning, and for her strong educational knowledge and skill.” Superintendent Matt Spelker presented her with the State Department of Education Certificate for this significant honor. In attendance at the meeting honoring Mrs. Baldassari were her husband and two children, many Harding faculty, and a number of parents including the President of the Harding PTO Cathleen Lazor.

Facilities and Finance. The school auditor, Mr. Tim Vrabel of TMVrabel Associates (school auditor since 2008), presented, and the Board accepted, the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending 30 June 2016. There were no Recommendations arising from the audit. Of particular interest to the Board and public was that the capital reserve at \$471K remains very solid.

Facilities and Finance Committee chair Howard Kotkin reported that preliminary budget work for the 2017-2018 fiscal year was beginning. The Committee is also revising the facilities plan.

Personnel and Management. Committee chair Kim Macaulay reported that preparations are underway for faculty contract negotiations.

Superintendent Report. Superintendent Matt Spelker reported that he was continuing articulation sessions with the Madison Superintendent, with the most recent occurring on 17 November. These will continue with the Madison Interim Superintendent once that person has been selected, following the departure on 30 November of the current superintendent for the Sparta school district.

Mr. Spelker also reported that a joint Harding school/Harding Township Health Officer discussion on the opioid problem is scheduled for 5 December. The Township now contracts its Health Officer from the Morris County Health Department.

Executive Session. The Board entered into Executive Session to discuss (a) Madison personnel and (b) Harding faculty contract negotiations.

Board of Education Meeting Highlights: November 14, 2016

Sometimes it just happens that a number of good things about our District come to light at the same time, helping us realize just how excellent our schools and their people really are. And this was the situation at this meeting.

First, the Principal presented the Teacher Mentoring Plan whereby each new teacher in our District is assigned a Mentor who interacts to provide insight and guidance of how things are at Harding - a valuable experience of support and encouragement. This program has been well received and contributes to the high spirit and camaraderie of the faculty.

Second, Andrew Novotny, a Harding alumni and now a Senior at Madison High, presented his Eagle Scout Project which was to establish an "Outdoor Learning Pavilion" on the Harding school grounds so that science students can spend more time outdoors in real contact with the actual material of their study. This project was quite involved as building permits, plans, materials, and coordination were needed to really make this

happen. Presently, all seems on track for groundbreaking in early January. Andrew developed this project as a way of “giving back” to his school and community - making everyone present feel quite proud.

Next, it was reported that the Harding Township Board of Education was awarded the Carol E. Larson “Master Board” certification by the New Jersey School Boards Association. During the course of the ten years that this award has been in place, only 13 Boards of Education - out of over 580 Boards in the State of New Jersey - have ever received this prized distinction.

Then, it was reported that Mrs. Jennifer Baldassari, a third grade teacher at the Elementary School, was recognized as an Exemplary Elementary Educator for 2016 by the New Jersey Department of Education. She is one of only eighty recipients state-wide (out of over 100,00 elementary school teachers) to receive this distinguished award. Board will present this award to her at the November 28th Board of Education meeting.

Now for the report of the PARCC situation. This is the second year of the program and Harding has adjusted quite well as you will note below compared with other schools in New Jersey:

- Out of **1,344** elementary schools Harding moved up 84 spots from 2015 and is now ranked **29th**!
- Out of **706** middle schools, Harding moved up 262 spots from 2015, and is now ranked **17th**!
- Harding Township School District is now ranked **14th** in the State out of **609** districts, moving up 133 spots from 2015.

Well, that was the big news of the night. Looking ahead for those interested in the school budget, the financial audit will be presented at the next meeting, November 28th.

(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.)

NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY & FIRST AID SQUAD

A Message from New Vernon Volunteer Fire Company and First Aid Squad: Begin the New Year by Making a Commitment to Your Community

2016 was a busy year for New Vernon’s volunteer emergency responders. The First Aid Squad was called out to upwards of 300 health emergencies ranging from simple vital assessments to CPR resuscitations. The Fire Company covered 238 incidents including routine alarm checks, vehicle accidents, and fires. This year the

Fire Company and First Aid Squad also staged several major joint drills designed to reinforce the teams' emergency preparedness.

In contrast to many other New Jersey First Aid Squads and Fire Companies, we never bill for our services because we are all "volunteer", all the time. The team is on call 24/7 every day of the year, and our rigs constantly stand at the ready to respond quickly and efficiently to any emergency in the township. Our services are always appreciated because residents recognize us as neighbors or friends they know from around town. For a person in distress, it is incredibly comforting to see familiar faces among the people who are there to help you.

This year several of our long-serving members are retiring after many years of volunteer service. It's time for a new group of residents to step in. So if you've been wondering how you might make a difference in 2017, why not start the year with a commitment to helping your own town? We are always looking for EMTs, drivers, and fire fighters. No experience is necessary: We'll train and outfit you AND you'll be part of a supportive family of community volunteers.

We hope you will answer this call by filling out an application form at www.nvvfd.org or calling us at 973-538-1277 x 3. We look forward to hearing from you. Happy New Year!

KEMMERER LIBRARY:

Programs: January 2017

Winter Hours: Monday-Friday: 10-5 | Saturday: 10-2 | Sunday: Closed.

Unless otherwise noted, we ask that you register for our programs in advance. Please visit our website or call us for registration: 973-267-2665.

Children's Programs:

Thursdays, beginning January 5 through February 2, 3:45-4:45pm.: New for kids in 2017: the Football Card Trading Club (FCTC)! Children in grades 1-3 are invited to join Mrs. Maxwell's new after-school club. Each of the 5 sessions will include football related activities, crafts, snacks and trading, culminating in a frenzy of football fun at the 'Gaga Super Bowl Party' on February 2! Participants are encouraged to bring their own football cards but rookies welcome since cards can be provided. Space is limited. Registration requested, please.

Tuesdays, 10:15 a.m. Toddler Time: Young children, ages 9 - 24 months, and their caregivers are invited to join Mrs. Marchev and Miss Kryssi every Tuesday for stories, movement, songs, simple crafts, and a snack. No registration required.

Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch. Children, ages 3-4, are invited to bring their brown bag lunch and enjoy an hour of games, stories, music, and a craft with Mrs. Marchev and Miss Kryssi. Registration requested, please.

Saturday, February 4, 4:00 p.m. New Jersey Symphony Orchestra presents: Peter and the Wolf. Children and their families are invited to a special performance of Prokofiev's beloved masterpiece featuring hands' on activities and storytelling, performed by members of NJSO. Registration required, please.

Adult Programs:

Tuesday, January 17, 1:30 p.m.: Daytime Book Group. Join our new, lively book group to discuss our January pick: *Nutshell* by Ian McEwan. "With *Nutshell*, Mr. McEwan has performed an incongruous magic trick ... A smart, funny and utterly captivating novel ... A small tour de force that showcases all of Mr. McEwan's narrative gifts of precision, authority and control, plus a new, Tom Stoppard-like delight in the sly gymnastics that words can perform." – Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times*. No registration required. All are welcome.

Wednesday, January 25, 10:30 a.m.-12 noon. The New Jersey Highlands Coalition Presents: "The Highlands Rediscovered" This beautifully shot (in high definition) and informative 30-minute documentary explains the history of the Highlands region and why it became the source of clean drinking water for more than half of the State's population. Refreshments will be served.

Sundays, January 29, February 12 and 26, March 12 and 26, 4-5 p.m. Parenting Book Group: Join educators, Kathleen McClay and Barbara Thomas for five Sunday workshops covering *The Gift of Failure: How the Best Parents Learn to Let Go So Their Children Can Succeed* by Jessica Leahy. The groundbreaking manifesto focuses on the critical school years when parents must learn to allow their children to experience the disappointment and frustration that occur from life's inevitable problems so that they can grow up to be successful, resilient, and self-reliant adults. Registration requested, please.

Tuesday, January 31, 10:30 a.m.-12 noon: NEAT Method with Jennifer Ferriso and Erika Downes: The NEAT Method recognizes that life gets hectic and that maintaining an organized home can be a challenge. NEAT designs solution that is not only effective but also sustainable. Once your life is clutter-free and well arranged, you will have a new appreciation for the happiness that comes from living the NEAT life.

Thursday, February 2, 7:30 p.m.: Native Wildflower Meadows: Let's Get Real with Landscape Expert, Larry Weaner. Demand for native meadows, particularly as alternatives to lawns, is increasing. Yet few types of landscape plantings are more misunderstood than native meadows. Drawing on many years of experience, Mr. Weaner will discuss methods and strategies to make YOUR meadow a long-term success. Registration required, please

Weekly Activities

Gentle Yoga, Mondays 10:30 a.m. and Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. Now in its 7th year, MJ Turnbull's outstanding and hugely popular classes are continuing. \$10 suggested donation per class, please.

New! Iyengar Yoga with Ellen Twill, Wednesdays, 4-5 p.m. Please e-mail ellentwill@msn.com to register. \$10 donation per class, please.

Mah Jongg Club, Thursdays, 12-2 pm. Social play. All levels are welcome.

Canasta Club, Wednesdays, 3-5 p.m. By popular demand we are adding a "Canasta Only" afternoon for players of all experience levels. Please be sure to register in advance at www.hardinglibrary.org, so we can be sure to have the correct number of participants.

Card Club, Fridays, 10:00 a.m.-12 noon. Canasta, Shanghai Rummy, and more! Social play. All levels are welcome.

NJ Makerspace Day, Saturday, March 2017

Exhibitors Wanted

Are you an artist, inventor, LEGO maven, crafter or robotics fan?

The Library is looking for residents who would be interested in sharing their expertise at **NJ Makerspace Day 2017**

For more information, please visit our website at www.hardinglibrary.org.

HARDING TOWNSHIP RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Spring 2017 T-ball & Lacrosse

T-ball: Spring t-ball registration now open! All Harding residents in grades K through 2 are eligible. The season will run from April 28 through the first week of June, 2017. For more information visit the website: <http://htra.info/t-ball/>.

Lacrosse: Spring lacrosse registration is now open! For more information about the teams and clinics, please visit <http://htra.info/lacrosse/>. Registration closes February 1st, 2017. Find more info on all HTRA sports at www.HTRA.info

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Township Committee Meeting Highlights: December 12, 2016

All members in attendance

Annual Re-organization meeting will be January 3. At this meeting the TC officially announces their new chairperson, informally known as mayor, as well as the appointments to the boards, committees and commissions.

At the regular January 9th meeting, the preliminary budget for 2017 will be presented.

Harding Township police officer Erik Heller was promoted and sworn in to the rank of sergeant in from of a packed room of friends and family. The officer has been a distinguished member of the HTPD for several years while his career in law enforcement goes back to 1994.

Morris County Sheriff-elect James Gannon was on hand for the ceremony and was asked to make some comments. He said that the sheriff's department is responsible for security at the County court house, bench warrants and legal services for things such as mortgage defaults, and special police services (bomb squad, SWAT, etc). The county jail was removed from the Sheriff's purview in September, but the Sheriff would like it returned. High priorities for the department are counter terrorism and heroin. Heroin (\$2.50 per dose) has become a scourge in the County as a cheaper substitute for OxyContin (\$30 per dose).

DPW Presentation. The year-end report of the DPW showed that the 7 members of the DPW team made strong progress towards their goal of improving the roads according to its scoring system.

Tree Ordinance Defeated in 3-2 vote. An ordinance to ensure that cutting of trees are properly permitted was defeated. Apparently the objective of the ordinance was to prevent developers from clear cutting a property with a “tear-down” house. However, a member of the public objected to the intrusiveness of the ordinance (in the form of permits and fees) on homeowners doing regular weekend property maintenance, seemed to sway a majority of the TC (DiTosto, Modi, Jones) to vote against the measure.

Township Committee Meeting Highlights: November 14, 2016

All committee persons were present

BUDGET ON TRACK. The Finance Committee delivered its quarterly report which showed that the Township is tracking well versus its 2016 budget. The municipal budget (about 25% of your taxes) is \$8.66 million and pays for police, department of public works, health department, court and other township functions. The schools (about 50% of your taxes) are not part of this budget, nor are the Morris County functions (about 25% of your taxes).

A preliminary budget for 2017 will be presented at the December meeting.

GLEN ALPIN - “DIVERSION”? AUCTION OFF? The big news was that the Committee is investigating a “diversion” for the Glen Alpin property.

A little back ground...Glen Alpin, a pre-Civil War Gothic Revival house, at the corner of Rt202 and Tempe Wick, was acquired as an open space project. Funding came from the State, Morris County and Harding Township. But because of the historic encumbrances and the various funding sources, Harding does not have free reign over the disposition of the property - ie. we can’t “just sell it” or “just tear it down”. The original plan was for GA to become a site for weddings, parties and such but that failed. The cost to make the building usable is very high given the historic restrictions and the requirement that government entities like Harding Township pays “prevailing wages”, ie union scale. So it sits...and the associated debt and maintenance costs have been a drag on Township finances.

At the November meeting, it was revealed that a “diversion” is being considered as a way to dispose of the property. A diversion is a State sanctioned scheme that starts with a valuation by an approved appraiser. The Township would then auction or sell GA and get the proceeds. But the appraised value **TIMES FOUR**, must then be used to purchase and preserve other open space. So depending on the appraisal, the 4X multiplier (essentially a penalty for changing plans after the State provided funding) could be quite costly.

Modestly softening the cost, the township would get (a) the auction proceeds and (b) be relieved of the annual maintenance of GA (about \$25K).

Here's an example: If GA is appraised at \$1M, then HT has to buy \$4M of other open space, hopefully more thoughtfully considered than GA. And let's say GA brings \$250K at auction. So HT could then issue \$3.75M (\$4MM less \$250K) of bonds to buy the new property. Bottom line: the net annual cost to HT taxpayers (primarily debt service on the bonds) for this disposition/diversion would be about \$305K. (This assumes HT, a AAA issuer, sells long term bonds at 3.5%.)

The current Open Space property tax assessment raises about \$850K per year and the bulk of that is already paying for Open Space related borrowing and maintenance on the existing portfolio of properties. So the incremental cost shown in our example (\$305K) is not likely to be accommodated within the existing Open Space budget. Thus property taxes would have to increase - either Open Space assessment or regular property taxes.

Even after the diversion, HT will continue to pay for the ill fated GA purchase.

The appraisal value and the auction proceeds are critical variables in determining if this diversion scheme can be fit within the finances of the Township.

So what's it worth? Though it has a reasonably new roof (cost about \$850K), the house needs extensive work - windows, foundation, septic system, etc. The property is about 3 acres and the front 6 acres on a very busy corner is preserved land. The new owner's renovation plan would have to adhere to the tight historical restrictions, though she wouldn't be saddled with the requirement to pay workers "prevailing wages" (i.e. union wages) like the Township.

DREDGE BAIN PARK POND...Maybe. The TC is considering the need to dredge the pond in Bain Park. A permit cost \$10K while the dredging costs \$104K.

HEARING PERSONS PRESENT. Resident of 124 Jenks Road, asked if the township attorney had found any way to force a neighbor to remove a derelict truck from an undeveloped lot with no driveway. Township attorney Roselli, said that there is no ordinance that would allow HT to bring action as it is not believed to be an abandoned vehicle. An abandoned vehicle is one without a valid registration.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday Speaker Series

The *Sunday Speaker Series* invites you to join Cindy Browning, LCSW, whose topic is *Maintaining Good Fences with Family and Others* on January 22 at 11:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall library. A dynamic and entertaining speaker, she has been in private practice for over 20 years, specializing in the treatment of trauma, couples, family therapy and addictions. Cindy will also offer guidelines to improving your relationship with your children, spouse, your boss, even yourself. Childcare will be provided. This is a free program for the community, and all are welcome.

HARDING TOWNSHIP/GREEN VILLAGE BRIDLE PATH ASSOCIATION

Historic Trail Map presented to Kemmerer Library

2017 brings changes to the HT/GV BPA Officers and Members-at-Large/Trustees. Big thank you to the previous Officers and Members-at-Large/Trustees over the past few years; and, a special thank you to those that served multiple terms in office supporting the Association. Especially, Brita Tansey, President who served as president and vice-president and worked diligently to ensure the Harding Township Trails and Showgrounds remained open to riding, and ensured sustainable growth of members and donations.

2017 Officers include:

- Megan Finkle President
- Joan Fitzhugh Vice President
- Mare Olsen Treasurer
- Dorothy McCann Secretary

Members-at-Large/Trustees: Jennifer Burns, Sean Colquhoun, Jessica Jones, Nancy Jones & Brita Tansey
We are also pleased to announce the donation of a 1954-55 Harding Bridle Trails Map, donated by HT/GV BPA & Mrs. Barbara D'Asaro, a long-time New Vernon resident and avid trail rider. The Map will be proudly displayed at the Kemmerer Library, New Vernon. The Map, beautifully mounted and framed, was presented to the Kemmerer Library by Brita Tansey and Megan Finkle. The map depicts the Bridle Path Network as it existed throughout Harding Township several decades ago, John G. Gaston II drew the map. Today's Bridle Path network is not nearly as extensive, but many of these trails are still in regular use. This nostalgic drawing reminds us of our rich heritage of our horse friendly Harding Township. As you will see, it is a

wonderful illustration; and it is amazing that we have maintained many of the original trails through the decades with the support of our Landowners and Members.

Furthermore, wrapping up our 2016 year, the Hazen's hosted our 2016 Holiday Party. The Party had over 75 attendees, and a Silent Auction with over 27 donated items was held to raise funds to support the HT/GV BPA Trail maintenance. The Party was a huge success, as well as the auction, and a great time was enjoyed by all. A big thank you to the Hazen's for supporting the Association and hosting!

HARDING LAND TRUST

For more than 25 years, the Harding Land Trust (HLT) has worked diligently to acquire and maintain key open spaces, safeguard environmental resources and preserve scenic views and wildlife habitats. HLT now protects over 575 acres of conservation land. We are humbled by the ongoing support of our community, and we pledge to work hard to honor that trust. The HLT Board of Trustees and staff would like to take this opportunity to thank its donors, supporters and members for making their important work possible.

The Harding Land Trust is an independent, nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization, funded entirely by donations and grants. HLT does not receive direct tax dollars. Please visit our website for more information at www.hardinglandtrust.org

HARDING TOWNSHIP PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

SAVE THE DATE: Screening of the Documentary Film: "Screenagers"

Thursday, January 19, 2017

The Harding Township School PTO invites you to a screening of the documentary film "Screenagers" on Thursday, January 19th at 7pm in the school gym.

"Screenagers" was created by Filmmaker and Physician Delaney Ruston who explores the impact of screen time (social media, internet addiction, video games) on children and provides suggestions for parents on how to help their children balance technology in their lives.

For more info: <http://www.screenagersmovie.com> .This event is open to the public and there is no admission charge. Attendees do need to pre-register. For more information contact Cathleen Lazor at cplazor@verizon.net.

HARDING SENIORS

Harding Township Seniors: January 2017 Events

January 12, 2017, Thursday 11 A M Christ the King Activity Center

Program: Carol Barton , Morris County Tourism. Topic; "Preservation of Local and Mid-Century Architecture".

Reservations for March 7th Trip to Doolans, Spring Lake due.

January 26, 2017 Thursday 11 A M Christ the King Activity Center

Program: Nicole Ruzzuto, Acorn Hall and PHD candidate, Drew University. Topic: "New Jersey's Historic Taverns"

Mary Bentzlin-Program Chair--973-971-9926

Planning Board Meeting November 28, 2016

Roll Call: Ms. Olcott and Messrs. Schlieffer and Flynn were absent.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting on October 24, 2016 and the minutes for site inspections for PB# 04-16 and PB# 05-16 held on November 12, 2016 were approved without comment.

Administrative Reports

- Phil Rosenbach, Chairman of the Board of Adjustment gave his annual report to the Planning Board, citing a slightly busier year of routine applications. Many applications are for small improvements outside of the building envelope. He recommended that the Board consider the consequences of some items being closer to the property line based on a different setback for small structures. He also cited a recent court case where the judge ruled that the Board of Adjustment could have jurisdiction over site design situations that were not pure zoning issues (the Chapter 346 issue).
- Mr. Saulnier reported that the Advisory Review Committee had discussed memorializing the importance of the dark night sky in the master plan and will come up with a short paragraph to accomplish this. The ARC was also researching the definition of barns but has nothing concrete to discuss at this time. He also said that the ARC will consider the issues raised by Mr. Rosenbach.

- Mr. Edgar reported that the Development Review Committee is talking with an un-named developer.
- Mr. Clew reported that the Environmental Commission discussed conducting a flora inventory on land trust property, a re-boot of easement stewardship, and the examination of the highest priority easements.
- Mr. dePoortere reported that HOST was working on long term maintenance issue, and that the Historic Preservation Committee was trying to nail down its budget.

Resolution

Application PB# 03-16, **Applicant the Estate of Peter H.B. Frelinghuysen, Jr.**, Sand Spring Lane/Twin Oaks Lane, Block 22, Lots 2.02 and 3.01. Minor Subdivision. The Board approved the resolution after references to monuments and markers were amended.

Old Business

Application PB# 04-16, **Applicants Allen and Benjamin Franklin**, 61 Village Road, Block 16, Lots L13. Minor Subdivision. At the request of the applicant, application tabled for tonight and adjourned to the next meeting.

Application PB# 05-16, **Applicants Michael and Helen Lucciola/Jodi Lane, LLC**, 30 Lees Hill Road, Block 49, Lot 8. Minor Subdivision. Applicants propose to create three lots, two lots in the R-3 zone along Lees Hill (Lots 8.01 and 8.02), and one large lot of 4 acres in the R-1 zone (Lot 8) behind the front two. Variances are also requested to retain a pool and shed on Lot 8.01. The Health Department has confirmed that the soil is suitable for septic systems; fire cisterns are available on school property; and typical storm water management systems will be installed. There was considerable discussion about the drive and proposed access. Mr. Fox suggested that access for Lot 8.02 could conflict with school traffic and should be moved further north. While there was some sentiment for keeping Crane Road “bucolic,” improvements were discussed, specifically widening to 16 feet then tapering to 12 feet after the first two drives, or installing enhanced shoulders to allow for passing in the first 100 feet. The Board approved crafting a resolution with the conditions discussed and the variances requested.

Other Business

Ordinance TC 08-16, Amending and Revising Chapter 225 of the Harding Township Code Entitled “Tree Conservation.” The Township Committee asked the Board for feedback on the amendments which include (1) plugging the loophole where a house is torn down and the lot is clear cut, (2) displaying the lot and block for tree work, and (3) lowering the diameter of protected trees from 8 inches to 6 inches. The Board agreed that the changes were consistent with the master plan. Mr. Saulnier will send a note stating such, and suggest that the Zoning Officer be added as and “authorized person.” Meeting adjourned.

HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION:

Harding Dog Fall Festival Benefits Local Shelters

The Harding Dog Festival, held on Saturday, October 8th primarily as a community enrichment event for the town’s dog owners raised \$810 to benefit our local shelters. The Harding Civic Association, organizers of the event, absorbed all costs so that all the proceeds from participants could be directed to benefit our less fortunate four-legged friends. Three hundred and ten dollars were given to People for Animals” a dog shelter located in Hillside, New Jersey, which provides, among other things, a low cost neutering service for dogs and cats whose owners could not otherwise afford such care. Five hundred dollars went to our local St Hubert’s Animal Welfare Center, which, because of a matching donor program, was doubled to provide \$1,000 for the organization.

Thumbnail & Website News and Announcements

If you have a submission for February 2017 Thumbnail please email by Friday January 13th. **MS Word is the preferred format, thank you!**

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

TOWNSHIP RECYCLING

Hours of Operation:

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

Every other Saturday: 9 am - noon

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 DPW - 973 267 2448,
Mon- Fri 8:30 am to 3 pm.

<u>DATES TO REMEMBER</u>	<u>Meetings as noted</u>	<u>Time</u>
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	1st & 3rd 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