

Borough of Somerville
Environmental Commission
Minutes of February 11, 2014 Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Vice Chairman Vijay Tulsiani

Roll Call: Vijay Tulsiani, Timothy Hayes, Katherine Hughes, Larry Cleveland
Harry James, Jr., Tara St. Angelo, & Granville Brady, Jr., Thompson Mitchell, Counsel Liaison.

Excused: Gina Stravic

1. New Commissioner Tara St. Angelo was welcomed to the Commission
2. Minutes of the January 14, 2014 meeting were approved with one minor correction.
3. Communications
 - a. Commission reviewed photographs of exterior of borough hall for discussion about the appropriate plantings near the foundation. Katherine Hughes will reach out to Brendan about this.
 - b. Commission renewed ANJEC membership for 2014
4. Old Business
 - a. Sustainable NJ-Tim Hayes reviewed progress to date and believes that we can easily obtain Bronze status. G. Brady reported that prior submission was complete except that the attachments were not able to be retrieved by revers at Sustain NJ. First round of new applications due in June. Commission will coordinate with Kevin Sluka to prepare final document for submission.
 - b. Green Team is obsolete. Commission asked Councilman Mitchell to follow up with Council to appoint new Green Team to oversee Sustainable NJ project. Looking for 6-7 volunteers.
 - c. Community Garden project—will continue with Mountain Avenue location. Thompson suggested involving Boy and Girl Scouts again. Harry James will reach out to Jay Scott for assistance with present and future locations. Several locations were discussed: front of Vanderveer School, space across from SHS, Veterans memorial Drive near skate board track, corner of James St and Fairview Ave, and Somerset St intersection with Veterans memorial Drive to name a few.
 - d. Community Forestry plan is due Feb. 14. Kevin will submit and Vijay will send a copy to all commissioners.
 - e. Arbor Day plantings plan to use grant from Garden Club to plant new trees on April 26.
 - f. Earth Day was discussed. Possible program to recycle electronics and large plastic items. Several ideas were presented including enlisting companies that take such items for reclamation and resale.
5. New Business
 - a. G. Brady brought up issue of tree removal on Demond Place during sidewalk replacement. Katherine Hughes surveyed street and found that at least 23 trees had been cut down. Some residents are outraged that they were not notified that their street tree would be removed. Commission discussed asking council for a policy on removal of street trees before a sidewalk is replaced. G. Brady suggested reaching out to the Mayor and council with a request to review the way residents are informed before the Borough cuts down their tree. He will draft a letter to the Council.

- b. G. Brady brought up item on Council agenda whereby a donation of trees from the developer's tree escrow account (JSM) is going to the private New Cemetery with Colin Driver slated to negotiate the deal between JSm and the New Cemetery. No further information was available. Larry Cleveland will explore the matter at the next Planning Board meeting and report back.
6. Reports
- a. Planning Board—Larry had no additional items to discuss. Brief discussion on status of parking deck.
 - b. Council Liaison—No report-Last meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Adjournment---Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Granville Y. Brady, Jr., Secretary