

**Borough of Somerville**  
**Environmental Commission**  
Minutes of June 10, 2014 Meeting

**Meeting was called to order at 7:50 PM by Chair Gina Stravic**

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

Note: Prior to the opening of the meeting, Commissioners had an opportunity to review the concept site plans for the green seam in the landfill that were presented by the Rutgers graduate school students at the first borough council meeting in May.

- 1. Minutes of the May 13, 2014 meeting was approved.**
- 2. Communications—None**
- 3. Old Business:**
  - a. **Sewer updates-** Thompson reported that the sewer lines at South Cadillac and Seville were clogged with grease. The sewer ferret was used to determine that the source of the grease was most likely from a home or homes within the neighborhood. Public works will continue to monitor the situation.
  - b. **Sustainable New Jersey** application was filed. Borough is seeking bronze designation. Gina thanked Vijay and Tim for their diligence in getting this done.
  - c. **Publicity**-discussion about how to disseminate information via e-connect, Facebook, website or other means. Gina will discuss this with Paul Allena.
  - d. **Highlands Council request for resolution.** Tara researched matter and found that no public action or resolutions have been made by the Highlands Commission. Therefore, no action by the Borough was recommended. There is a bill S-355 that would suspend the Highlands Act and that might allow for changes in the land use that could impact Somerville. Gran will research legislation and ask Council President Thompson Mitchell to prepare a resolution for council opposing suspension of the Highlands Act.
  - e. **Community Forestry grant**—Borough lacks a letter from the Council endorsing the grant application. Gran will reach out to Kevin Sluka to put it on Council agenda.
  - f. **Rain Garden project**—so far only 1 person has applied for a rain garden, but Tara reported that the Leadership Somerset group is seeking a worthy project and has designated the rain garden for implementation. About \$1000 is needed to buy provisions and Heather from the rain garden program would assist with locating a suitable site.
  - g. **Van Fleet Garden**—Harry surveyed the garden and found that it is in poor shape. A copy of the 13 issues that need attention is attached. Discussion about what groups might be able to rehabilitate the gardens, e.g., Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, H.S. environmental club, etc. Project will be put off until fall.
- 4. New Business**
  - a. **Demond Place reforestation**—Commission had a request to canvass Demond Place to determine which homes want a street tree. After considerable discussion, the Commissioners agreed to take on the project after meeting with Kevin Sluka to determine the available funding, the types of trees to be planted and other issues that homeowners might raise. Vijay, Gran and Tim offered to canvass the street.

- b. **Planning Board**—Larry reported that most of the signage from RWJ-UH at Somerset were in place. The approval process went smoothly.
- c. **Green Team** will meet in July

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM**

**Respectfully submitted:**

*Granville Y. Brady, Jr.*

Granville Y. Brady, Jr., Secretary