

**Borough of Somerville  
Environmental Commission**

Minutes of July 8, 2014 Meeting

**Meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM by Chair Gina Stravic**

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

Excused: Vijay Tulsiani, Larry Cleveland

- 1. Minutes of the June 10, 2014 meeting was approved.**
- 2. Communications—None**
- 3. Old Business:**
  - a. **Sewer updates-** Work is still in progress with no significant actions to report.
  - b. **Kiosk-** Nothing to report
  - c. **Sustainable New Jersey** application was filed. No response from the state. Tim will meet with the Green Team on August 13.
  - d. **Bike Racks/Farmers market-** moved to Division Street. Gina would like to have Bike racks on Division Street. Committee discussed what the racks might look like.
  - e. **Highlands Council request for resolution.** No action taken yet. Will continue to monitor.
- 4. New Business**
  - f. **Community Forestry grant**—Borough lacks a letter from the Council endorsing the grant application. Kevin provided cover letter for plan resolution signed by Mayor Gallagher. State contacted Somerville & notified us that the application was late and incomplete resulting in a tentative rejection. State agreed that a rewritten plan would be acceptable when all criteria had been met. Borough still needs to have someone with “core training” from the Commission. Last Commissioner was Tom Auffanorde but he has left Commission. Need one replacement along with two DPW workers that are certified. Gran moved to resubmit application with Harry seconding. Approved by all.
  - g. **Rain Garden project**— two sites were discussed at Borough hall and Exchange Field. Tara will lead committee to present idea at next Council meeting and seek resolution.
  - h. **Fall calendar of events was discussed**
  - i. **Downtown Tree Preservation Committee**—was discussed with recommendation that 2 Council members (Thompson from EC and Ken Utter from DSA), two EC members (TBD) and 2 DSA representatives (suggested Steve Peter-resident and Mary Beth McDonald) by assigned by Mayor Gallagher.

**Planning Board**— Larry was absent and there was no report. Gran reported that house known as the Rubin Estate had been demolished over July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. No information on what will be built on property.

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:08 PM**

**Respectfully submitted:**

*Granville Y. Brady, Jr.,*  
Secretary

