

**Borough of Somerville**  
**Environmental Commission**  
Minutes of August 12, 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., Tara St. Angelo, Thompson Mitchell, Counsel Liaison.

Excused: Vijay Tulsiani, Timothy Hayes,

- 1. Minutes of the July, 2014 meeting was approved.**
- 2. Communications**

*NJ Shade Tree Federation:* Borough received a letter from Alex McCautney at NJ Shade Tree Federation informing us that we failed to meet requirements for 2013 & urged us to apply for 2014 shade tree grants that are available. Note that we added a pruning element to the application for 2014 as per July minutes.

*Exxon-Mobil environmental services:* Thompson presented a letter from Exxon-Mobil notifying borough that they had completed cleanup of gas station on Union Avenue next to Social. Thompson will forward letter to Michael Cole at Planning Board.

**3. Old Business:**

- a. **Sewer updates-** Thompson gave updated report: The Borough has modified the sanitary sewer manholes in Southside Park so that a Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) cannot occur. 2. Two of the sanitary sewer manholes located north of Cliff Street along Peters Brook that needed to be repaired (to prevent infiltration and/or SSO) were modified so that a SSO cannot occur. This work was performed last week.
  3. The casting on the elevated sanitary sewer manhole located between High and Cliff Streets was replaced with a casting designed to prevent a SSO from occurring. This work was completed last week.
  4. The manhole, where the SSO occurs, at the end of Central Avenue will be repaired and chains installed on the lid so that the lid will not be lost in the Peters Brook when a SSO occurs. This work, if not complete, will be shortly.
  5. The SRVSA received approval to install the SSO bypass pipe and will be shortly installing the bypass pipe.
  6. The NJDEP requested that the Borough installing signage in the vicinity of the sanitary sewer manhole notifying the public that a SSO may occur from this manhole. The requested signage will be installed in the near future.
- b. **Kiosk-** Lock on Kiosk was broken. Will ask Roberta Harmon to look at it.
- c. **Sustainable New Jersey** Vijay had reported that we have 145 points (only 30 short of certification).

- d. **Tree Replacement Demond Pl:** Kevin reached out to Gina with request for her to meet with mayor Gallagher on the matter.

#### 4. New Business

- e. **Rain Garden project**— Tara presented rain garden plan to Council & was given unanimous approval to go ahead with it. Current plan is to work only with Exchange Field site and not the one at Borough Hall.
- f. **Downtown Tree Preservation Committee**—no action yet taken by Mayor Gallagher to appoint ad hoc committee. Lively discussion ensued about how to resolve potential conflicts that would jeopardize the Main Street trees. Gran suggested that Commission continue to make efforts to reach out to the mayor to appoint an ad hoc committee.
- g. **Replacement Trees**—Gran asked about the procedure to replace street trees. There seems to be no clear policy so Gran was asked to contact Tom Auffanorde about policy.
- h. **Bike Racks**—The EC discussed the feasibility of installing bike racks on Division Street. This is an issue that should be referred to the DSA.

**Planning Board** –Larry presented several issues that are now before the Planning Board including:  
ARB approved plan by Alfonso’s to spruce up the rear of their store;  
Storm Family (Somerset Arms) is seeking approval to construct a new apartment complex on Doughty behind Scampi’s restaurant site and at the site of the Masonic Temple;  
Reuben property was approved for cluster zoning if the mansion was to stay intact. Now that the mansion was raised, the issue needs to be revisited by planning Board.

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM**

Respectfully submitted:

*Granville Y. Brady, Jr.,*

Secretary