

**Borough of Somerville**  
**Environmental Commission**  
Minutes of January 13, 2015 Meeting

**Meeting was called to order at 7:48 PM by Chair Gina Stravic**

Roll Call: Gina Stravic, Katherine Hughes, Granville Brady, Jr., Larry Cleveland, Timothy Hayes,

Absent: Vijay Tulsiani, Tara St. Angelo, Thompson Mitchell, Council Liaison.

- 1. Minutes (no formal meeting held in December)**
- 2. Election of officers**—Gina, Chair, Vijay, Vice chair, Gran, secretary
- 3. Communications—January 1 Borough Re-organization**

Mayor re-appointed all existing Commissioners.  
Gran recommended that Tara be moved from alternate to regular member to fill vacancy
- 4. Reports**
  - a. Planning Board**—Larry reported that a new art store will open next to the melting pot & a gift shop is slated to open next to the art store.
  - b. Council**—Thompson absent but Gina reported that she attended the Council meeting when the Sustainable NJ was reported. She requested Council to look at issue impacting Borough more globally and not simply to react to them.
- 5. Old Business**
  - a. Community Forestry Program**- Awaiting Mayor Gallaher's signature and will be due February 1.
  - b. Demond place**- Katherine reported that approximately 13 trees were planted which was the number Gran had originally designated when he canvassed the street.
- 6. New Business**
  - a. Goals and objectives were discussed**—Green Team—Gina requested more involvement from the business community. Tim will reach out to Jeff Carlson who works for Shop Rite and lives in town.
  - b. Re-cap 2014 achievements were listed**
    - i. Sustainable NJ finalized application & awarded Bronze designation**
    - ii. Kiosk was maintained**
    - iii. Earth Day celebration**
    - iv. Spring tree planting**
    - v. Community flower garden planted**
    - vi. Clean up Day**
    - vii. Arbor Day planting**
    - viii. May tree planning with Scouts**
    - ix. Demond Place tree re-planting**
    - x. Environmental Commissioners on Main Street Tree Task force**

- c. **Focus for 2015**
  - i. **Revisit Community Forestry Management plan demonstrate how Borough is implementing elements of the plan**
  - ii. **Continue to emphasize public awareness through Arbor day and planting events**
  - iii. **Obtain a tree inventory grant**
  - iv. **Invite guest speakers beginning with Rodney Hadley DPW director**
  - v. **Use the same calendar format as for 2014**
  - vi. **Seek sponsor for maintain rain gardens**

**7. Discussions**

- a. Larry suggested that EC have a line item in the budget. Should be brought up with Thompson and Dennis Sullivan
- b. Larry recommended developer's contributions to the tree fund be increased from \$350 to \$650. Subject will be discussed with Lisa Yates, Vice chair planning board with Michael Cole presenting justification based on more realistic costs to purchase and plant trees in the Borough.
- c. Tim reviewed some of the Sustainable NJ goals that we might pursue, e.g. town wide shredding and electronics recycling day

Meeting was adjourned at 8:59 PM

Respectfully submitted by Granville Y. Brady, Jr., Secretary