

Borough of Somerville
Environmental Commission
Minutes of February 10, 2015 Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by Chair Gina Stravic

Roll Call: Gina Stravic, Katherine Hughes, Granville Brady, Jr., Larry Cleveland, Timothy Hayes, Tara St. Angelo Councilman Thompson Mitchell

A. Minutes of January meeting were read and approved with corrections

B. Communications

1. Committee for Arbor Day flyer
2. E-mail invitation for 2/17 Raritan Valley Watershed meeting on imperious cover action plans to mitigate flooding—Lower Raritan Watershed partnership. Gina planned to attend.

C. Communications

1. Community Forestry report due date
2. NJ DEP-Land use program consultants Geosyntech will work on brownfields (landfill) related to green seam. Thompson discussed how green seam stream will filter out hazardous materials using a bioremediation system.

D. Reports

1. **Planning Board**—Larry reported a new ice cream store approved for abandoned building on E. Main next to Enterprise car rental across from Krauzers.
2. Dr.'s office on West End Avenue was approved with limitations
3. Commission discussed application for Brew Pubs in B-1 & B-2 zones.
4. **Borough Council**—Thompson reported on the Main Street Tree task force's recommendations. A lengthy discussion ensued, the gist of which was:
 - a. EC would not take a position on the recommendations because the Commissioners expressed concern that no expert on trees was called in to evaluate the status of the existing trees, which trees needed to be replaced, the status of the pavement that could impact on a tree's position, and a thorough analysis of which species would be appropriate to replace any of the existing trees
 - b. The Commission will seek the services of Rutgers to obtain a grant, if possible for an expert study of the Main Street trees and make recommendations consistent with best practices.
 - c. The Commissioners expressed concern that the Main Street tree task force made no plans set no priorities for removal and replacement, provided no cost analysis, and were concerned that the replacement trees selection was too limited.

- d. The Commission questioned whether the proposed redevelopment between Davenport and Doughty might be the best place for a tree study and replacement as a beginning step.
 - e. Commission chair Gina Stravic will prepare a written response to Council enumerating the Commission's concerns.
- E. **Community Forestry plan.** Gina presented a narrative of the 2014 accomplishments related to this issue. Plan was approved by the Commission for submission to the state as soon as Mayor Gallagher signs it.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25PM

Respectfully submitted:

Granville Y. Brady, Jr., Secretary