

**BOROUGH OF SOMERVILLE
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES of Tuesday, April 14, 2015
Attendance: Gina Stravic, Katherine Hughes, Thompson Mitchell, Larry
Cleveland, Harry James**

I. MARCH MINUTES WERE TABLED FOR APPROVAL

II. COMMUNICATIONS - NONE

III. REPORTS

- A. Planning Board – Larry reported that there are 2 projects on North Doughty St. The Mason Lodge is rebuilding and 18 new apartment units going in next door. EC hopes to get 2-3 trees from the project.**
- B. Council – Tom Mitchell and Larry explained the county solar project failure which resulted in bonding to pay off the project, as it is not generating the revenue expected to pay off the building costs.**

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Gina noted that the Community Forestry Management Plan was approved based on Rodney's additional training credits.**
- B. The grant request for tree mapping was declined.**
- C. Larry is going to speak with Mayor Gallagher regarding the status of the Main Street tree task force results. Although a presentation was made there appears to have been no published decisions made.**
- D. Rain Garden Update – Heather Desko sent a report saying that the Exchange Field project was undergoing improvements and that 2 rain gardens were grant funded in Somerville in 2014/2015.**
- E.**

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. GS Tree Arbor needs transplanting to parks. Gina will coordinate. She will seek a May 3rd planting date. We identified the banks of the brook at Lepp Park.**
- B. Memorial Trees – we reviewed photos submitted by an EC member as possibilities but made no decisions as the fire dept has not been contacted.**
- C. Emerald Ash Borer Traps & Recommendations were reviewed by Katherine as she has volunteered to trap and track the pests for the state.**
- D. Green Team Report & April 22 meeting @ Dukes – no report**
- E. Earth Day event was reviewed. Clean Up areas were identified. Shop Rite donations were received through Tim. Katherine planned an**

educational component and everyone is encouraged to bring family and neighbors.

F. Cherry Tree planting project through the Lions Club was discussed. Katherine will provide a lay-out to send to the Mayor.

G. We reviewed the need for Van Fleet Gardens clean up based on Harry's past report. It was decided to find a scout group for this.

VI. OTHER

cc: Commission Members, Kevin Suluka, Roberta Harmon., Jay Scott, Rodney Hadley,