

**BOROUGH OF SOMERVILLE  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES – February 9, 2016**

**Present:** *Gina Stravic (Chair), Timothy Hayes (Vice-Chair), Vijay Tulsiani (Secretary), Katherine Hughes, Harry James, Tara St. Angelo, Tom Mitchell (Council Liaison), Brian Gallagher (Mayor)*

**Absent (excused):** *Sande Benscoter, Larry Cleveland (Planning Board Liaison)*

**Members of Public Present:** *Adam Taylor, Bob O'Neill (NJ Water Supply Authority)*

Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm by Chair Gina Stravic.

**I. JANUARY MINUTES**

- Reviewed and Approved.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS/WELCOME**

**III. COMMUNICATIONS:**

- Kevin Sluka has confirmed that the Community Forestry Plan annual report has been submitted. In addition, the proposed Solar Panel Zoning document and the Landfill Bid documents were provided for review by the Commission.
- Paul Allena requested that the Commission review the new Borough website and provide feedback. Meeting to review the new design will be held on Feb 24<sup>th</sup>. Katherine will participate.
- NJ DEP Permit Extension Act – Tara explained the implications of the Act in that it allowed previously granted construction permits to be extended due to the impact of the 2008 recession.
- Tom Mitchell – Updated waste water rules and SRVSA permit. No new information

**IV. REPORTS:**

A. Planning Board:

- SKIP – Larry was not present.

B. Borough Council:

- Vendor for landfill water remediation has been selected, will build a closed loop system for remediation.
- Contract between NJ Transit and Somerset Development to start transit oriented development (retail, apartments, townhouses, etc.)
- Emergency contract extension for waste collection granted to current collection company. Need to rebid as contract granted to new company was voided due to invalid bid.

**V. OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Reviewed the 2016 Commission Calendar and Projects

- B. EC Budget details as provided by Gina - \$350 training budget (ANJEC Membership with Workshops). \$6473.32 in the tree account (\$2600 new + \$3873.32 carryover)

**VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Mayor Gallagher – discussion on no mow zones
  - Wants Commission to take the lead in defining, designing, and identifying some sample areas.
  - Example existing area - Mountain Ave and Mercer St. Mow 2x/year at the highest setting.
  - Goal is to reduce DPW work, emissions, etc. Potentially include wildflower areas.
  - Walking meeting in April to identify area, place sign indicating no-mow zone. Will walk Peters Brook and identify potential no-mow areas, maintain access to creeks.
- B. Bob O'Neill – NJ Water Supply Authority
  - Mailing for Rain Garden and Rain Barrel workshops. Removed watershed limitations, added Hillsborough for 2016. Passed out postcards to hand out the friends and neighbors.
  - Discussion on potential Erosion Control project
    - Help in identifying locations for bank stabilization using black willow stakes. Take about 7 years to evaluate impact.
    - Will plant willow stakes. Target interval, mid-March to end-April.
    - Proposed date March 19 (subject to weather condition). Backup date April 2.
- C. Takeena Deas – Somerset County Business Partnership – No update
- D. Adam Taylor – Conservation Story
  - Looking for conservation success stories, prefer lands preserved from NJ Open Space funding.
  - No potential sites in Somerville identified.
- E. ANJEC Grant - \$1500 due April 1, 2016.
  - Gina to draft – Funding to move tulip trees from nursery and plant in no-mow zones
  - Partners – Girl Scouts, NJ Water Authority
- F. Green Team
  - Meeting on Tuesday, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**VII. OTHER:**

- Discussion on potential uses for South Side Park once remediation is complete: Dog park, Community Gardens.
- April 23 Clean Up Day. Gina to apply for tree seedlings, get lesser quantity this year.
- NJ Tree Recovery Campaign, 200 seedlings, to be available May 29.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.