

**BOROUGH OF SOMERVILLE  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES – March 8, 2016**

**Present:** *Gina Stravic (Chair), Timothy Hayes (Vice-Chair), Vijay Tulsiani (Secretary), Sande Bencoter, Larry Cleveland (Planning Board Liaison), Katherine Hughes, Harry James, Tara St. Angelo, Tom Mitchell (Council Liaison), Colin Driver (Director Economic Development)*

**Absent (excused):**

**Members of Public Present:** *Adam Taylor*

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

**I. FEBRUARY MINUTES**

- Reviewed and Approved as amended

**II. COMMUNICATIONS:**

- Somerset County pruning Workshop, April 2 – Post in Library and on Exchange Field Bulletin Board
- Angela Knowles, EC involvement interest – not present
- ANJEC April 8th volunteer work day – do we have need/proj.? – Decided to pass
- PSEG – Freshwater Wetlands Statewide Permit Notice Received – regular permit, tree trimming etc.
- Ash Borer Workshop – Katherine to attend in Milltown on March 9, 1:00-2:15 pm
- ANJEC Membership Renewal – Done
- ANJEC Workshop – March 19, 9:00 am – 1:30 pm in Morristown, Sande to attend.

**III. REPORTS:**

A. Colin Driver – Landfill contract and work:

- Explained history of landfill development and the vision plan prior to 2008
- A redevelopment plan RFP was written based on vision plan, 14 responses were received.
- Project put on hold due to 2008 recession.
- Revised project RFQ, received 4 responses to RF Qualification.
- Raised \$4m for environmental remediation from NJ DEP
- Engineering estimate for remediation is \$16.2m, DEP will pay 75%
- Borrowed remainder from DEP Environment Infrastructure Trust Fund at 0.01%
- Remediation bid awarded on Feb 1, 2016
- Project steps as follows:
  - Remove all trees (All trees will be replaced after work is done)
  - Stream to be diverted/piped
  - Remove contaminated soil along the stream bed and install liner
  - Refill with clean soil
  - Finally restore the stream will be sent back
- Project will be completed in 2017.

- Water remediation will be done in place by bacteria injection, the old pump out and stream is no longer required since contamination is down significantly.
- B. Planning Board:
- Borough acquired parking lot across from United Methodist Church. Will combine with existing borough parking. Also helps alleviate parking for proposed apartment buildings.
  - Post Office plaza has been approved to provide paid parking.
  - Solar Panel zoning discussions still ongoing. Impacts front facing and non-conforming structures (too close to property line).
  - JSM Fencing Cleanup, ongoing
  - JSM will build deck on south side of lot (next to Veterans Memorial). Existing parking area is required for construction.
  - Propose changing ordinance regarding temporary storage containers (e.g., Pods)
  - Kirby Avenue (old Baker and Taylor site). Asked for higher density (to 22 from 16, approved 20), total 240 units. Came back with plan that was not completely fleshed out. Amendment to increase density was voted down.
- C. Borough Council:
- Introduced ordinance to allow open space near south side park to be used by sewer authority for overflow treatment plant

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Discussion - no mow zones plans/next meeting – outdoor location
- Katherine sent out document on no-mow zones for information
  - For next meeting, we will meet at tree arbor for April 12 at 7:00 pm to walk potential no-mow zones.
- B. Green Team Meeting report/progress - Tim
- Reviewed list of items to be submitted in June-2016 for possible Silver Certification.
- C. Report on new website review – Katherine
- New site includes mega search, will also allow Somerville personnel to update information, will be uniform across PC, tablet, phone. Links to DSA, School, etc.
  - Goes live in about 3-4 months.
- D. Bank Stabilization – Vijay
- Vijay to contact Bob O’Neil and finalize April 2 date.
  - Larry to coordinate Scout Troop/Volunteers.

#### **V. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Earth day Clean-Up – Sat., April 23. Assignments:
- Gina – Press release, Sande – VilleTV, Katherine – School
- B. Arbor Day Festival – Sunday May 1st 2-4pm Event activities:
- Pruning workshop, Tree trek, Tree/leaf crafts by Girl Scouts, Tree seedling distribution
- C. ANJEC grant - \$1500 due April 1st – review proposal for large tree removal/transplant? Gina will e-mail for review
- D. CSIP grant from Community Forestry and CEU opportunities. Gina will review with Kevin

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.