

**BOROUGH OF SOMERVILLE
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES – June 14, 2016**

Present: *Gina Stravic (Chair), Timothy Hayes (Vice-Chair), Vijay Tulsiani (Secretary), Sande Benscoter, Katherine Hughes, Harry James, Tom Mitchell (Council Liaison)*

Absent (excused): *Larry Cleveland (Planning Board Liaison), Tara St. Angelo*

Members of Public Present: *None*

Meeting called to order at 7:50 pm by Chair Gina Stravic.

I. MARCH MINUTES

- Reviewed and Approved
- No minutes for April-2016 meeting, walking meeting to review potential No Mow Zones.

II. REPORTS:

- A. Planning Board – Larry
 - Absent.
- B. Borough Council – Tom
 - Report on the Green Seam Groundbreaking ceremony. Attendance was good with the Mayor and all Council members present along with a State Senator and several members of the public.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Kiosk at Exchange Field – Roberta
 - Continuing to maintain the Kiosk on a monthly basis, updated for June.
 - This month's display includes a Shredding Event calendar, information about attracting pollinators like bees and butterflies to the garden, and information about planting a pollinator-attractor garden.
- B. Green Team Meeting report/progress - Tim
 - Did not submit for June 2016 since there were not enough points for Silver-level
 - Current certification is valid through Dec-2017.
 - Will apply in June-2017.
- C. No Mow Zone Update
 - Gina has the drawings. She has spoken with the Mayor and will pass along drawings to Rodney.
- D. Girl Scout Tree Arbor Report – Katherine
 - Moderate attendance due to prior cancellation. Pruned, weeded, and planted new trees. Need to remove the larger plantings. Should be good until fall.
- E. Green Seam Groundbreaking Report – Sande
 - See Borough Council Report.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Tree Vacancy/Street Tree Replacements:
 - Need to update inventory, perhaps by involving the High School Environmental Club in the Fall.
 - Review Princeton Shade Tree web site for potential ideas on Street Tree Inventory.
- B. NJ Sustainability Conference:
 - Gina will attend.
- C. Borough Hall Tree discussion/recommendation:
 - Sycamore/London Plane, looks fine from ground level.
 - Main leader was dead and removed.
 - Recommend leave it up (for now). Hire tree expert to review when feasible.

V. OTHER:

- A. Dead tree on Midaugh Street:
 - Borough is responsible since the tree is in the right of way
 - Discussion on arbitrary cutting of street trees, need to define some rules
 - Frank Vasso is still insisting on removing trees if there is an impact on the sidewalk.
- B. Harry is resigning from the Commission at the end of the year

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.