

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

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

**Absent (excused):** *Harry James*

**Members of Public Present:** *None*

Meeting called to order at 7:40 pm by Chair Gina Stravic.

**I. JULY-2016 MINUTES**

- Reviewed and Approved

**II. COMMUNICATIONS**

- Community Forestry Program received approval for tree grants totaling \$1.5m. Gina will forward for commission review.
- Green community grant information – Gina will forward
- Larry will talk to the Mayor regarding recommendations for Harry's replacement.

**III. OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. New borough website status
  - Covers more than just the environment; expected to have links to all board minutes and agendas, committee expiration, ordinances, executive orders, interactive tax map, etc. Katherine has reviewed and will pass along her comments.
- B. Borough Hall Tree
  - Letter sent to Mayor and Council
  - Katherine recommends leaving it in, just do some maintenance, e.g., pruning.
  - Also reviewed tree impact on sidewalk in South Side. Larry will communicate to Mayor
  - Discussion on updating tree ordinance, no conclusion reached.
- C. Commission Trainings/Forestry Plan Requirements
  - CEU opportunities
    - Accessing Sustainability 1.5 CEUs, Thu, Aug 11.
    - Shade Tree Conference - Oct 26-29 Bally's Atlantic City
  - Gina will check accrued CEUs and balance required for 2016.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. GS Tree Arbor / Tree Removal:
  - Gina will communicate with Rodney.
- B. Borough Hall Plant Review:
  - Katherine submitted a landscape plan a couple of years ago. May need to resend or ask Rodney/Brandon to attend Commission meeting for discussion.

- C. Sustainable Jersey Reports:
  - Sande – spoke with Winnie at SNJ
    - Need resolution for Arts Program
    - Creative Team can potentially be connected to Arts on Division,
  - Gina reviewing walking school bus, Health and wellness criteria, will work with Somerville YMCA.
  - Tim – Brownfields, working with Colin to get documents.
- D. Available Grants:
  - CSIP Grants – Also forwarded information to Tom.

**V. REPORTS:**

- A. Planning Board – Larry
  - Reduced number of apartments in new building on Division St. The new proposal has 42 apartments. Parking will be expanded into Lot 1A.
  - Larry shared design of new apartment building at 110 S. Bridge St. It is located between NJ Transit Daily Lot and existing apartment complex on 150 S. Bridge St.
  - Discussed Cobalt Building issue regarding moving utility poles across the street. Power has already been moved but owner doesn't want to pay to move cable/telephone.
- B. Borough Council – Tom
  - No updates.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.