

**BOROUGH OF SOMERVILLE  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 13, 2016**

**Present:** *Gina Stravic (Chair), Katherine Hughes, Sandra Bencoter, Larry Cleveland (Planning Board Liaison) Tom Mitchell (Council Liaison), Paul Allena (IT Specialist)*

**Absent** (excused): *Timothy Hayes, Vijay Tulsiani, Tara St. Angelo, Harry James*

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

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

**I. AUGUST 2016 MINUTES**

Reviewed and Approved

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Commission trainings/Forestry Plan Requirements = 8 CEU's between minimum of 2 people required; state website has 2 CEU's listed as of June. Gina will plan to attend with possibly Sande. Not sure if our online CEU's have been applied.
2. Two people, who have expressed interest in becoming Commission members were contacted by Gina to attend tonight's meeting, but neither responded nor attended.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

1. "New Jersey Shade Tree Federation Annual Conference"; October 28 and 29, 2016 5 CEUs per day Location: Bally's Casino Resort, Atlantic City, NJ CORE Training and Various CEU Topics, details TBA Contact: New Jersey Shade Tree Federation, 732-246-3210 or [www.njstf.org](http://www.njstf.org)
2. Monarch Butterfly Project Idea  
Monarch in caterpillar stage needs milkweed. Suggestions: Plant in no mow zones and identified community locations. Good project for Boy/Girl Scouts and/or Somerville High School Environmental Club. Pursue funding/grants
3. Available Grants  
Forward information to Municipal Works of Energy Saving Grants available.
4. Girls Scout Tree Arbor/ Tree removal  
Too dry season to transplant trees into parks. Must put off until spring.
5. Sustainable NJ – action reports  
Access to Public Information: Katherine waiting for new Somerville Website to go online, but action work is in progress having connected with Paul Allena.

Arts and Creative Culture: Sande and Gina waiting for Deidre Rosinski (on behalf of Arts on Division) to move forward with establishing a Creative Team.

Safe Routes to school: Gina: Waiting for New Ride Wise directive program to be rewritten.

Healthy Communities: Gina: Reviewed matter. Complex; not sure on next steps at this time.

#### **IV. REPORTS**

1. Planning Board - Larry

Cobalt Building is adding windows in the rear of the buildings. Discussion continues concerning telephone poles and cables. Gina asked if tree fund will benefit.

2. Council: Tom

The Council voted to restore the Farmers Market to Grove Street.

There will be new fees for Main Street parking and the parking lots.

#### **V. OTHER**

Paul Allena gave a presentation of the new Somerville Website. It should go online shortly after training.

Motion to adjourn made by Larry Cleveland  
Seconded by Gina Stravic

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.