

**BOROUGH OF SOMERVILLE
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES – October 11, 2016**

Present: *Gina Stravic (Chair), Katherine Hughes, Tara St. Angelo, Larry Cleveland (Planning Board Liaison), Tom Mitchell (Council Liaison),*

Absent (excused): *Timothy Hayes (Vice-Chair), Vijay Tulsiani (Secretary), Sande Benscoter,*

Members of Public Present: *Angela Knowles*

Meeting called to order at 7:45 pm by Gina Stravic.

I. SEPTEMBER MINUTES: Approved on a motion by Ms. Stravic, seconded by Ms. Hughes, and carried unanimously.

II. COMMUNICATIONS: None

III. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Discussion on new Borough website

- Not many meeting minutes from the Commission have been posted
- There are no photos on the Commission's page
- No term limits are posted for each member of the Commission
- Our meeting time is mistakenly listed as 7pm on certain parts of the website

B. Discussion on Shade Tree Conference

- Ms. Stravic will be attending the conference on October 28th and 29th.

C. Discussion of open spaces on the Commission

- A vacant spot on the Commission needs to be filled
- Angela Knowles (present at the meeting) will send her resume to the Borough Clerk in order to be appointed officially

D. Discussion of Sustainable Jersey Credits

- Animal Companion Pledge – completed by Ms. St. Angelo and will email to Mr. Mitchell for adoption by the Borough Council.
- Resolution adopting an emergency management operations plan. Ms. St. Angelo had reached out to the OEM who stated that the plan cannot be sent electronically or copied due to confidentiality concerns. We will need to figure out if Sustainable Jersey will accept a resolution adopting such plan in lieu of a copy of the plan.
- Smoke Free Ordinance. A copy of the signed ordinance, educational materials, and pictures of signage are needed to obtain these credits. The

Borough has not posted any signage; therefore, it appears unlikely that the Borough can obtain these credits.

- Creative Arts. Ms. Stravic is awaiting certain approvals.
- Digitizing Public Resources. Ms. Hughes is working on this project.
- Walking School Bus.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of the Tree Arbor.

- Ms. Stravic has reached out to Spook Brook Nursery for help in removing some of the larger trees.
- The Borough may be looking to replace some trees along Peters Brook
- Ms. Stravic will reach out to the DPW Supervisor (Rodney) and invite him to our next meeting.

B. Discussion of Community Outreach

- The possibility of having a “tree trek” was discussed. Middle School children could be engaged in order to teach them how to prune trees.
- Ms. Stravic will reach out to the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the High School Environmental Club, and the Middle School science teachers.

V. REPORTS:

A. Planning Board:

- The Board is revising and reopening the Gaston Avenue Redevelopment Plan, which covers the area from the Rite Aid to the Sunoco gas station.

B. Borough Council:

- Sewer repairs around South Street were discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.