

**BOROUGH OF SOMERVILLE  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 11, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Jeffrey Lamborn (Chair), Helene Venizelos (Vice Chair), Sandra Benscoter (Secretary), Roberta Harmon, Geoff Keiser, Glen Denys, Gina Stravic (Borough Council Liaison) and Larry Cleveland (Planning Board Liaison).

**ABSENT:** Geri DeSapio and Rebecca Reitman-Garofalo.

**Green Team:** Timarie Diehl

Meeting is called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Jeff. This meeting is called to order in accordance with the open public meeting law. Notice of this meeting is posted on the Somerville website. A copy of this statement will be included in the minutes.

**I. MINUTES:** March 2023 minutes. Minutes were approved on the motion made by Helene, seconded by Geoff, and carried unanimously.

**II. COMMUNICATIONS**

- A.** Site plan for Meadow Street Development (Eastern Business Redevelopment District).
- B.** Notification letters:
  - 1.** Hathaway Solar.
  - 2.** Raritan Lofts – Rt. 206 North, Raritan, NJ.
  - 3.** Right to know: Choice Cabinetry, 61 5<sup>th</sup> St., Somerville, NJ.
  - 4.** Right to know: Rebtex, 40 Industrial Pkwy., North Branch, NJ.
- C.** Municipal Stormwater grants are available through NJDEP.
- D.** Solar applications for homeowners.
- E.** Somerset County vegetable garden workshop on Earth Day in Bridgewater, NJ.
- F.** Draft of Tree Removal-Replacement Ordinance.
- G.** Helene advised all social media outlets to update with Earth Day information.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

- A.** Roberta up dated kiosk for 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Added info for taking back medications.
- B.** Helene advised members concerning our application for SNJ.
  - 1.** Have 225 points and 3 priorities.
  - 2.** Need 350 points and 3 priorities.
  - 3.** May 12, 2023, next deadline.
- C.** Seedling distribution at Somerville YMCA, April 21, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.
- C.** Earth Day/Arbor Day Fair
  - 1.** April 22, 2023, set up at 8:00 a.m. – Somerville H.S. parking lot. Open at 9:00 a.m.
  - 2.** All info on E-connect (Borough of Somerville).
  - 3.** Event will be shared on Facebook.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

- A.** May 9, 2023, meeting will be held at the Wallace House at 7:00 p.m.
- B.** Gina discussed the 2023 community outreach Energy Efficiency Partnership Program with SNJ & PSE&G.
- C.** The Solar and the Tree Removal/Replacement Ordinances were reviewed. Geoff will make the necessary corrections, etc. to the ordinances.

#### **V. REPORTS**

- A.** Borough Council – Gina Stravic – Liaison
  - 1.** Gina discussed the Somerville Budget Presentation at the Borough Council meeting.
- B.** Planning Board – Larry Cleveland – Liaison
  - 1.** 130-136 E. Main Street, furniture restoration company needs variance.
  - 2.** An issue with Oak Restaurant, corner of Bridge and Main Streets, needs extension to development.
- C.** Green Team – Rebecca Reitman-Garofalo – Liaison
  - 1.** Meet and greet opening at the Community Garden on April 29, 2023.
  - 2.** May 1, 2023 planting will begin.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Helene.

Seconded by Glen.

Meeting adjourned 9:35 p.m.