

**BOROUGH OF SOMERVILLE
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 15, 2022**

PRESENT: Jeffrey Lamborn (Chair), Helene Venizelos (Vice Chair), Sandra Benscoter (Secretary), Roberta Harmon, Janet Perantoni, Glen Denys, Geoff Keiser, Rebecca Reitman-Garofalo, Gina Stravic (Borough Council Liaison), and Larry Cleveland (Planning Board Liaison).
Green Team: Paige Greenfield and Michele Hatfield.

Meeting was called to order at 7:38 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: October 2022 minutes. Minutes were approved on the motion made by Helene, seconded by Janet, and carried unanimously.

II. COMMUNICATIONS

- A.** Letter from Hathaway Solar, LLC c/o John Ervin concerning the application for NJDEP Flood Hazard Area Verification for the Green Seam.
- B.** Jeff called our attention to a meeting with the new firm hired by the DSA to design a new downtown street scape. Open for public comment.
- C.** Anticipating NJDEP's new Inland Flooding rules should be passed by early next year.
- D.** Helene spoke concerning programs listed on EC Facebook page.
- E.** Geoff updated our EC site on the Borough's webpage.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A.** Paige suggested EC share our end of year report with the EC's of other New Jersey towns.
- B.** Members will forward a few paragraphs concerning our individual projects for Jeff and Geoff to include in the annual report to be presented in person to the Borough Council on the 5th or 19th of December, 2022.
- C.** Gina made mention there was no water in the bags on the trees planted at Lepp Park.
- D.** End of year gathering Tuesday, December 13th, at Gina's, 16 Grant Ave., at 7:00 p.m.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A.** Michelle, a new green team member, is with AmeriCorps and one of 27 ambassadors in N.J. She represents region #9, South Lawrence River Watershed, providing stewardship and partnering with the community in projects and workshops.
 - 1.** Michele will meet at our annual Turkey Trot at 9 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day at the Community Garden and present a rain barrel program.
- B.** Money was collected to donate to the Somerville Angel Tree Program on behalf of the

Environmental Commission. Jeff will forward the donations.

- C. With our education hours met, Jeff and Geoff will complete the Urban & Community Forestry annual report, send it for budget review, present it to the Borough Council, then forward it to AAR.

V. REPORTS

- A. Borough Council – Gina Stravic – Liaison
 - 1. Will report to the Council on the many accomplishments of the EC during 2022.
 - 2. Will discuss water and green infrastructure on future developments.
- B. Planning board – Larry Cleveland – Liaison
 - 1. Three restaurants: Tacos, Breakfast Coffee and Indian Food, operating at different times, received the approval of the Planning Board.
 - 2. Discussion concerning the ramifications to Somerville by removing 4 office buildings and replacing them with a large warehouse on Rt. 22 East before Adamsville Road in Bridgewater.
- C. Green Team – Rebecca Reitman-Garofalo – Liaison
 - 1. Rebecca gave update concerning Green Team meeting on Tuesday, November 29th.
 - a. She will contact G.S. troop to coordinate joint projects.

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Geoff.

Seconded by Helene.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.