

**BOROUGH OF SOMERVILLE  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 11, 2022**

**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:** Janet Perantoni and Rebecca Reitman-Garofalo.

Green Team: Geri DeSapio and Colleen Reh Sweeney.

Meeting was called to order at 7:50 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:** August and September, 2022 minutes. Both minutes were approved on the motion made by Helene, seconded by Glen, and carried unanimously.

**II. COMMUNICATIONS**

- A.** Michele Hatfield, a Watershed steward, contacted Gina and requested permission to attend our next meeting.
- B.** Rebecca Scott, G.S. leader, volunteered her troop to work in the G.S. Arbor.
- C.** Social media
  - 1.** Bridget posted pictures of the Salem Oak seedling planting at the Wallace House.
  - 2.** Helen updated our online presence.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

- A.** Geoff reported three trees for the Street Tree Plantings for Residents were withdrawn due to underground pipes, blockage of signs, etc.
- B.** No scheduled meeting for the Rezoning/Flood Advisory Committee.
- C.** Tree Walk was a success.
- D.** Good attendance for the Salem Oak Tree seedling planting at the Wallace House.
- E.** Tree Grants update:
  - 1.** Community Forestry grant: anticipate spring planting of trees for reforestation.
  - 2.** NJ Tree Foundation partnering with MET LIFE will plant 40 trees at Michael Lepp Park on October 21, 2022.
- F.** October 22 and November 12 are the end of year shredding date for Somerset County.
- G.** Roberta updated the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the EC kiosk.
- H.** Helene will include leaf composting education on our social media sites.

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

- A.** Firemen questioned the use of the Community Garden during the winter. It is a permanent structure and will remain.
- B.** EC next meeting date has been moved to November 15, 2022.
- C.** End of year meeting and social event will be held at the Stravic residence on December 13, 2022.
- D.** End of year reports are to be sent to Jeff prior to the end of November.

#### **V. REPORTS**

- A.** Borough Council – Gina Stravic – Liaison
  - 1.** Idling truck on South Adamsville Road.
  - 2.** Multiple accidents on the corners of Cliff and Grove Streets.
- B.** Planning Board – Larry Cleveland – Liaison
  - 1.** Inspected plans and discussion of Solar Field in Somerville.
- C.** Green Team – Colleen Reh Sweeney - representative
  - 1.** Two additional planting beds need assembly.
  - 2.** Delivery of mulch for the Community Garden.
  - 3.** Meeting, date to be determined, to discuss contract, rules, etc. pertaining to the Community Garden prior to it's opening to the public.

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Roberta.

Seconded by Glen.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.