

**BOROUGH OF SOMERVILLE
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 20.2022**

PRESENT: Jeffrey Lamborn (Chair), Helene Venizelos (Vice Chair), Geoff Keiser, Glen Denys, Roberta Harmon, Gina Stravic (Borough Council Liaison) and Larry Cleveland (Planning Board Liaison) and Rebecca Reitman-Garofalo (Green Team Liaison).

Green Team: Geri DeSapio and Colleen Reh Sweeney.

ABSENT: Janet Perantoni and Sandra Benscoter (Secretary).

GUESTS: Dr. Neil Hendrickson (Licensed Tree Expert), Karen Hendrickson, Kris Gunn (Somerset County, Office of Emergency Management), Chris Perez (Rutgers Water Cooperative) and Danielle Kearsely (NJ American Water).

Prior to the beginning of our monthly meeting all the above met and walked Peter's Brook Greenway between Grove St. and East High St. with Neil Hendrickson. He discussed the trees, the overgrowth areas, the invasive plants and the remediation of each.

Read: Condensed tree information at www.gardenProfessors.com per Dr. Hendrickson.

General meeting followed.

I. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Roberta mentioned she recently sent two work orders, through Somerville Direct App., where residents submit problem sites. Submission goes directly to Borough for the work order to be completed. One work order was completed quickly.
 - 1. Suggested Colleen use same method to report overgrown trees which block line of Site.
- B. Geoff updated members on the Street Tree Initiative. Several residents wanted trees planted on their lawns. When told Borough was not able to plant on private property they withdrew their request.

II. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion of Sande's herb display idea during the Salem Oak planting at the Wallace House on Sunday, October 9, 2022. Several members volunteered to bring herbs.
- B. Introduction of Kris Gunn, Chris Perez and Danielle Kearsely as NJ American Water grant funders for a share of \$10,000 grant money towards riparian buffer and rain garden.
 - 1. Plant trees along Peter's Brook between Grove and E. High Streets.
 - 2. Rain Garden proposed at Walck Park.

IV. REPORTS

- A. Planning Board, Larry Cleveland Liaison – no report
- B. Borough Council, Gina Stravic – Liaison
 - 1. Updated EC members concerning latest Borough Council meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.