

**BOROUGH OF SOMERVILLE
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES – MAY 10, 2022**

PRESENT: Jeffrey Lamborn (Chair), Helene Venizelos (Vice Chair), Sandra Bencoter (Secretary), Glen Denys, Geoff Keiser, Janet Perantoni, Rebecca Reitman-Garofalo, Gina Stravic (Borough Council Liaison), and Larry Cleveland (Planning Board Liaison).

ABSENT: Roberta Harmon.

Green Team: Colleen Reh Sweeney, and Geri DeSapio.

Meeting was called to order at 7:37 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: April 2022 minutes. The minutes were approved on the motion made by Geoff, seconded by Glen, and carried unanimously.

II. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Notification from Hathaway Solar concerning applications for a General Wet Land Permit and an individual Flood Hazard Area permit.
- B. Nandini Checko contacted Jeff concerning Urban Tree Selection and Low Carbon Concrete.
- C. ANJAC Quarterly Report online.
- D. Helene reported EC had good traction on Social Media accounts.
- E. Ken Fairfield (Somer22) posted pictures of our Earth Day celebration. Thank you, Ken.
- F. Thank you to John Knox for his contributions to Earth Day celebration.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A. EC kiosk is current.
- B. Rezoning/Flood Advisory Committee.
 - 1. Focus on East Cliff St. Apartments.
 - 2. In depth discussion on rebuild.
 - 3. Submit position paper from EC to Borough Council at next meeting.
- C. Positive feedback on Earth Day.
- D. DSA will use EC 'Bag Up' video (Helene & Jeff) during summer stage performances.
- E. Street Trees – Geoff.
 - 1. Unofficial list of 12 responses for trees to be planted on homeowners' property.
 - 2. Focusing on S. Cadillac, Hamilton, and Walnut Streets.
 - 3. \$12, 000 in budget.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A.** Individually fill out self-assessment.
 - 1. What are we doing well?
 - 2. What can be improved?
 - 3. What would you like to see in 6-12 months.
- B.** Mission statement.
 - 1. Gina volunteered to do EC mission statement.
- C.** Stormwater Utility and Enhanced Ordinance.
 - 1. Jeff will contact Raritan EC, investigate the county ordinance, and speak with Planning Board of Somerset County.
- D.** June 14, 2022, EC meeting will be at the Community Garden.

V. REPORTS

- A.** Planning Board – Larry Cleveland – Liaison
 - 1. House on E. Main St. will be used as homebase for a company.
 - a. No retail allowed.
 - 2. Taco Bell requests moving menu board and speaker from east side to west side and extending hours.
 - 3. Reconfirmed ordinance for charging station.
- B.** Borough Council – Gina Stravic – Liaison
 - 1. Email sent concerning Wetland Reforestation.
 - a. Encourage residents to attend next council meeting.

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Janet.

Seconded by Geoff.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.