



SOUTH ORANGE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION Minutes

Thursday, August 25th, 2022 – 7:30 PM (Virtual WebEx Meeting)

Adequate notice given to the public.

Attendance:

Public: Joe Foligno-DPW, M Parlapiano, Rick Kalish, Julia Flath, Alyssa Aronson

Commissioners: Linda Beck, *Barbara Bour, Walter Clarke, Lorraine Graves, *Larry Hirsch, David Kraiker, Olivia Lewis-Chang, *Rob Orgera, *=not present

*Bill Haskins, Village Trustee Liaison, *Karen Hilton, Village Trustee Liaison*

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call meeting to Order; 7:30 pm
2. We still need someone to step up and act as Secretary: WC

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- June 2022 - Approved (July meeting was canceled)

3. POLICY UPDATES

3 resolutions in process. Bird nesting consideration, memorial trees and shrubs all native, light pollution resolution.

4. BOT/PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE - (Foligno)

72 trees taken down, primarily Ash. Signage at the yard. Fall planting discussion next Thursday. Grove Park was 4 days- big operation= 35 trees. Drought watering as much as they can with free workers. Trees on weekends. Shut the fountains down for drought. Duck pond will continue (recycles itself). Stump grinder is broken (sourcing parts). May need to go out of house to continue grinding but it will happen.

B Haskins- Arborist is considering species recommendations for the Grove park replacements. Soil testing in various area to inform species recommendations. Mulch rings on remaining trees.

M Parlapiano-fall leaf collection-lets make changes to the process and encourage much in place or at least bag. LB- EC will continue to advocate for best practice but the DPW process is not for us to dictate. BH-DPW will collect bags, level of education is what will change behavior and he will continue to support best practice.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

M Parlapiano - plastic recycling, only 5% recycled. EC should support not collecting plastic in curbside to change people's habits. LB - Wayne Defeo disagrees. BH - Other data points around rates would be useful in making such a decision. (Discussion continued by the group on best practice.)

6. UPDATES ON NEW and CURRENT PROJECTS, ISSUES, etc.

- Mobility Action Committee (Julia Flath and Donna Coallier) – Volunteers needed! Julia Flath - restarting this com. Want to follow the model of the EC Green Team. Focus is how people get around town by various means SAFELY. Big issue now is the lack of school busing. No schedule set up yet. Volunteer application link on the website.
- Shade Tree-meetings are second Tuesday of the month (Sept it is a Wednesday)
 - Fall planting - Meet next Thursday. BH will liaise.
 - Grove Park plan - Shade Tree and Montrose parks have talked and developed a plan. DK shows a doc proposed by Petra Chu.
 - Miti Miti - suggested some trees for planting there. River Birch
 - Squier - DK meeting with them tomorrow (Friday).

- Community Garden – Bat Project- OL-C, didn't get grant for this. A Com Gardener went ahead and made boxes. Wants help to install them in the Fall or early Spring. 6-10 boxes total. Joe will hang them if we give them locations.
- Adopt-A-Storm-Drain: program approved for implementation in SO.
- ERI Intern- starts 8/29
- Leaf Blower postcard-for distribution to neighbors by neighbors.
- Village Solar and Climate – Site visit summary! Met with SOPAC, formulating suggestions.
- Update on the Energy Aggregation program status - No new contract
- Update on drought status- Drought watch continues. BH people are still watering their lawns, don't!
- Rain barrels are sprouting up around town! - Drought is showing their usefulness.

7. COMMUNICATIONS - Walter & Linda

FB: 832 page likes, 911 following

IG: 390

8. WORK DAYS/VOLUNTEERING:

- Work Crew is on hold this week
- SOPL VolunTeens
- Seton Hall Dove Project – Friendship Park
- 10/20 - Beth El river clean up

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – 09/22/22 - 7:30 pm

10. ADJOURNMENT: 8:57pm