



SOUTH ORANGE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION Minutes

Thursday, February 23, 2023 – 7:00 PM (Virtual WebEx Meeting)

Adequate notice given to the public.

Attendees:

- ~~Linda Beek~~
- ~~Walter Clarke~~
- Lorraine Graves
- ~~Larry Hirsch~~
- David Kraiker
- ~~Olivia Lewis Chang~~
- Robert Orgera
- ~~Beau Schwegman~~
- ~~Bill Haskins, Trustee~~
- Karen Hilton, Trustee
- Joe Foligno, DPW

Public: Jennie Aylward, Julia Flath

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call meeting to Order 7:04 pm

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- January 2023 - Approved, unanimous

3. POLICY UPDATES

Nothing to report.

4. BOT/PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Engineer presented budget at last BOT - many engineering goals have environmental interest. Ex: Responses to River Greenway RFP are due tomorrow, 02/24/23. Engineer has applied for storm water and storm utility grants. Engineer is also working with Topology on a new Tree Ordinance. NJDEP threatening to require NJ towns to have Tree Ordinances.

DPW - Joe and Dylan are cobbling together spring tree plantings and logistics. Funding comes from DPW budget. Fall planting to come, also funded by DPW.

Recycling update - Basso (pick up service) has been a struggle and continues to be. It is getting incrementally better, however. Complaints: Missing neighborhoods and not great at responding. Volume of materials is down overall. The village saved about 19% over what we paid last year for services. In general, it looks like people are complying.

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

- Grant Proposal - Greenway committee working on \$10k grant to reforest in prep for the Greenway.
- Open Commission Member Position - compiled criteria and process
 - Matrix is meant to help members with assessments, it is not a requirement.
 - Follow up questions to candidates - Linda typed up and will send out. Two weeks for candidates to answer questions by 03/09/23
 - Members will send top two choices to Walter by 03/30/23.
- Date for Commissioner recommendation to Village President within week.

6. COMMUNICATIONS - Walter & Linda

FB: 856 page likes, 928 following (up from 849 page likes, 922 following)

IG: 418 (up from 414), 205 following

Content needed - Walter and Linda to brainstorm.

7. WORK DAYS/VOLUNTEERING/:

- Work Crew is still on hold.
- Stay tuned for River Day info! May 7th, rain date May 14th. Elks Club offering to provide music!
May 20th - tentative date for Greenway Parade

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

South Mountain Green Team - Focusing on sustainable clothing choices. This Saturday is a visible mending workshop. Possible partnership with Repair Café?

Beau has a client who is a recycling processor and offers to connect Trustee Haskins to them if it's helpful.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – March 23rd, 2023

10. ADJOURNMENT - 8:07