



SOUTH ORANGE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION Minutes

Thursday, June 29th, 2023 – 7:30 PM (Hybrid In Person/Virtual WebEx Meeting)

Adequate notice given to the public.

Attendees:

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| ☒ Linda Beck | ☒ David Kraiker | ☐ Olivia Lewis-Chang, Trustee |
| ☒ Walter Clarke | ☐ Robert Orgera | |
| ☒ Lorraine Graves | ☒ Beau Schwegman | ☐ Joe Foligno, DPW |
| ☐ Larry Hirsch | ☒ Katie Skibinski | |

Public: Alex Tibbets, Rick Kalish

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call meeting to Order 7:30 pm

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 2023 approved

2. POLICY UPDATES

- a. Tree Ordinance-working on that. Tomorrow, June 30th, potential meeting. Trying to strengthen the permit process.

3. BOT/PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE-No trustee or DPW rep at meeting.

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

- o Planning Board Update: D.Kraiker - Gave overview of the Planning Board application and review method. Mentioned ways in which he tries to insert environmental strategies into reviews. But if there are no ordinances, there is no back-up to environmental requests. Mentions two up-coming applications.
- o Energy Study for SOPAC- R. Orgera not present, WC pursuing meeting with SOPAC
- o **Sub Group/Green Team Reports**
 - o **Shade Tree-** See new ordinance
 - o **New Trex Recycling Programme.** Single-Film recycling bins now at DPW. Specialised Facility collects this.
 - o **River Greenway** - is keeping pace. Andy Stone and Walter presented to BOE, esp. to new trustees.
 - o **Walk/Bike Committee** = no-one present.
 - o **No-Mow May.** Walter sent info requesting for people to be on a volunteer group.
 - o **Sustainable Jersey Schools** - no-one present to educate us about this.
- o **New Business:**
 - o **SHU SOS days and projects.** SHU (Seton Hall University) reached out to EC to supply "Service on Saturday (SOS)" (volunteer hours). They are trying to fill Sept 16 through Dec 2nd (Saturdays). They traditionally schedule these by early June.
 - o **Food Waste Prevention** (Lorraine G.) Talks about the hierarchy (which follows the waste hierarchy). Brainstorm ideas : (1) References book, "Perfectly Good Food" - most food waste occurs in our own kitchen. Invite these two authors to come and make a presentation at Words (Maplewood). (2) KALM has moved. They have cooking demos; Lorraine thinking of asking them for a chef that shows how not to waste. (3)

Free beer at a beer garden to hear a discussion on food waste. (4) EPA has a tool to customise signs and brochures to promote food-waste avoidance. *Walter suggests getting the authors to lecture at KALM. Suggests putting out info on the EC social media. Per Lorraine, the "saving \$" aspect is the best route, not finger-wagging. Beau: incentivise people and make their lives easier. Discussion on "composting" and strategies for a suburban town.*

- o **Green Building Ordinance** - in Livingston. Walter sent it to commissioners. Their ordinance says areas in need of redevelopment, invokes green building standards. Walter questions whether a town can have more stringent requirements than the state.

5. COMMUNICATIONS -

- o FB: 956 followers (up from 932) IG: 466 (up from 441).
- o IRA/Coms sub committee report-Katie S: Inflation Reduction Act Legislation - to incentivise businesses to convert to cleaner energy. Working on social media campaigns. Confusing Tax Provisions. Has laid out a 6 week project to push out info onto Soc. Media. Will share documents with us to get some feedback.

6. WORK DAYS/VOLUNTEERING:

- o Work Crew: touch base with Kirk and Bill to flesh out some dates. Best to get a month's worth of dates out there at once.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

8. NEXT MEETING DATE – July 20, 2023

9. ADJOURNMENT: 8:43 pm