



SOUTH ORANGE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION Minutes

Thursday, July 20th, 2023 – 7:30 PM (Hybrid In Person/Virtual WebEx Meeting)

Adequate notice given to the public.

Attendees:

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

Public: Alisa Aronson, Kathleen Grant, Alexander Keeling

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call meeting to Order 7:33 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 2023

POLICY UPDATES

Tree Ordinance: to be routed to EC and others next meeting. Outline presented at Planning and Economic Development Meeting this past week.

BOT/PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Nothing to report.

UPDATES ON NEW and CURRENT PROJECTS, ISSUES, etc.

Planning Board Update: D. Kraiker unable to attend. We'll cover this next meeting.

Energy Study for SOPAC- R. Orgera. Walter, John Nettleton, and Rob had a meeting with Dean and Rob Cruz at SOPAC. They hadn't progressed at all since the last meeting Linda, Nettleton, and Rob had had. They suggested we engage the CinemaLab folks. All agreed that an energy audit is called for for the building but the SOEC could offer "low-hanging fruit" as far as small energy changes that can be made to immediately impact and optimize existing energy use. John and Rob will assemble recommendations and forward it to SOPAC as a next step. Level One Assessment is also in the near future.

Sub Group/Green Team Reports

Shade Tree - See *Tree Ordinance* above

River Greenway - a group is meeting in the parking lot on the other side of the old Gleason's lot on Parker tomorrow morning with folks from Maplewood to try to tie together Maplewood and South Orange elected officials and the School Board since it will affect school pedestrian traffic.

Walk/Bike - no report.

No Mow May (or as Linda suggests - "Slow Mow Spring" - Set meeting date, which EC wish to be included? For clarity - this will not be a MANDATORY No Mow period but optional.

Sus Jersey Schools

New Business:

Rob Orgera - Citizens Climate Lobby, Electrification Subteam - sounds like a good connection to the new communications campaign led by Walter, Katie, and Kathleen. SOEC serendipity!

Kathleen reinforces the importance of education on electrification for the community and would like to push that forward. Walter reminds us that Kitchen a la Mode has induction stove tops. We could tie that into public education.

EPA Grants - Lorraine alerts us of some upcoming grants and asks if anyone can write this up for next year. This grant money is geared toward solid waste - reduce, reuse, repair, rot.

Lorraine will send link to this year's grants.

Trex Bench film plastic recycling bins now at DPW and on the bottom level by the stairs at SOPL!!

Walter has been offered a position with the town - a recycling and sustainability role - and will therefore have to step down from the position of SOEC Chair. Walter suggested that Kathleen Grant and Andy Stone be considered for Commissioners. Linda seconded. All were in favour.

Walter will pass on the SOEC recommendation to add both to the Village President.

Poison Hemlock Press Release and education coming from Linda and Walter.

COMMUNICATIONS -

FB: 971 followers (up from 956) IG: 488 (up from 466). Our biggest uptick since we've been tracking. Well done, Katie, Kathleen, and Walter.

IRA/Coms sub committee report: KS on vacation

WORK DAYS/VOLUNTEERING:

Work Crew: 7/23 - Kirk Barrett, rain park

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

NEXT MEETING DATE – August 17, 2023

ADJOURNMENT: 8:30 pm