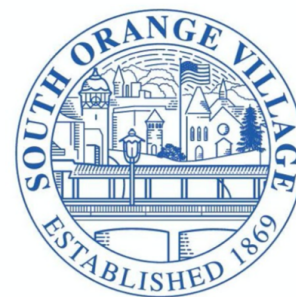


SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE
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SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Thursday 06/17/21 from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm Adequate notice given to the public

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Present - Barbara BOUR*, Rob ORGERA*, David KRAIKER*, George FINLAY***, Linda BECK*, Lorraine GRAVES*, Michael PARLAPIANO, Whelan MAHONEY, Karen HILTON**, Bill HASKINS**, Walter CLARKE, Jessica MILLER, Georgia MADIBA, Susan HAIG, Jackie HERSHIPS. **Absent** - Richard BELL*, Larry HIRSCH*

*=Commissioner; **=Trustee; ***=Alternate Commissioner

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MAY 2021 MINUTES - Approved

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jackie Herships attends on behalf of Senior Citizens Advisory Committee. Public request for Farmers Market to reduce their plastic packaging impact; *G. Madiba will reach out to them.*

POLICY UPDATES

- **Leaf Blower Ordinance:** (*Beck*) Review of proposed ordinance; Changes: omitted registration compliance; fines on homeowner (not business); DPW exempt (for time being). Discussion if we need to do public outreach/session beforehand. K. Hilton explains the BOT process of reading/reviewing new ordinances. Ultimately, voted to send to Board of Trustees: BOUR, ORGERA, KRAIKER, BECK, GRAVES: aye; FINLAY: nay.
- **Tree Ordinance:** (*Parlapiano*) Using Int'l Society of Arboriculture (ISA) site as reference. Four Tenets: 1. Take stock of what we have; 2. Define overarching goal; 3. Define the here-to-destination strategy; 4. Establish feedback mechanisms. Key to success: lots of civic engagement, and broad citizen advisory board. Formalising a



commission is a right step. ISA recommends NOT getting too specific with ordinances.
B. Bour offers to help read through docs w/ M. Parlapiano.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

- **Summer Intern:** Still conferring about 3 candidates. Intern will work on Open Space Inventory.
- **Sustainable Jersey Certification** – (Clarke) Renewal date 10/2022; but need to start now listing accomplishments. Walter talks about dates, timing and submission logistics. Volunteers needed.
- **Shade Tree Commission Formation** – (Clarke) W. Clarke recommends the formation of a Shade Tree “Commission” (NOT “Committee”) due to legalities that would protect it as such providing it follows typical form of a commission.

He has obtained a template to establish an STC and is ready to begin work; it should be connected to the Environmental Commission in some way. The present Shade Tree Group has become large and dominates the time of the Environmental Commission. Discussion of who/which departments should be part of the proposed STC. Trustee Haskins has already informed DPW of the potential formation of STC. *W. Clarke will submit his proposed ordinance to present STC group for analysis.*

UPDATES ON CURRENT PROJECTS

- **South Orange Heat Map Data (Miller)** J. Miller shared with us an on-line, land surface temperature (LST) map. Useful tool to analyse tree canopy deficiencies and heat-island areas of town. Needs to be incorporated into master plan. Link to map:
<https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=cb57fa89169d49e2bfd35cd2b4721225&extent=-75.3191,40.0398,-73.7,40.7198>

- **Fields**

- Floods Hill. (Finlay) Shows video of Floods Hill that shows that natural grass will hold up-even after 4 nights of High School theatrical presentation. Grant covered some of the costs. Turf-vendors may overestimate how much natural upkeep costs.



o Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (*Miller*) Using the WBGT to take temperatures of fields around town.

o Maplewood participation. Contact from Maplewood Environmental Advisory Group will continue to work with us. Many fields under jurisdiction of Board of Ed, within Maplewood.

● **Native Plants** (*Miller*) 9/18 - possible plant sale, in partnership with Essex County Chapter of NPSNJ (Native Plant Society of NJ), Toadshade Wildflower Farm, and Founders Park Conservancy

● **Trees**

o **Fall Tree Planting** (*Bour*) Plan in the works. What needs to happen: update tree species list. Has sent out current list; needs help determining if things need adding. Location – 167 locations noted by address. Needs (1) to harden that process and publish it so we can get to it; (2) to find an equitable solution; (3) to create one document with one pipeline in; (4) to estimate the cost of seasonal workers to keep tree-gators watered; and (5) to obtain dates with tree requests.

o **Tree Homeowners Guide** – (*Bour/Miller*) They met on this and Jess is editing the guide but also needs to find place to post links for trees, etc. Post on blog is recommended. Additional Problems: “Tree Volcanoes” in the berms. Give a description of this (Jess) – they cover the root flare. Better tree-mulching needed.

Next Shade Tree Committee meeting on Tues, July 6th.

● **Eco Guide**

o (*Madiba*) Guide is now online (see SOEC blog); 25 outlets have been contacted for posting/sharing. Contact Georgia if you need some or have ideas as to further distribution. <https://sogreenteam.wordpress.com/2021/06/02/south-orange-home-eco-guide/>

o Guide may contribute points toward Sustainable Jersey re-certification.

● **ZERO WASTE/MSW/Recycling**

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○ **Re-Use Facility Visit** (*Graves*) Visit to Summit Re-use facility. ZW group discussed the concept of re-use facilities.

○ **Reusable Takeaway Containers** (*Graves*) – Will contact Dept of Health to discuss. Has also called Summit whose high school came up with a good short survey on this option. Must talk to various restaurants and explain organics recycling law coming into effect in NJ. Must look at standardized containers that are interchangeable. Mentions company, “Deliver Zero.” Ben Vitale will help with this – and the SOMA action group. Lorraine already has the survey in-hand. Will try to disseminate.

○ **Recycling Trust Fund.** (*Kraiker*) ZW Group discussed the monies generated from the Trust Fund – but no-one can vouch for where that money goes.

○ **Zero Waste Consultants Survey Release** (*Kraiker*) Prose were not geared to social media. Much was posted in a haphazard fashion since PDF did not correspond to social media; long prose. Many people went straight to the survey.

WORK DAYS

- **PRIORITY:** Current Project Maintenance (hold off on new ideas for now!)

NEW BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE: Has moved SOEC to the 3rd Thursdays of month at 7:00 pm. Next meeting July 15th, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT 8:40 pm