



## The Environmental Commission and Green Advisory Committee of Somers Point, NJ

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### City of Somers Point—Green Team FEBRUARY 1, 2016 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call was recorded as follows:**

**Members Present:** Gregory, Keyser, Ludgate, B Bender, and L Bender

**Members Absent:** Reinert, Green

**Open Public Meetings Act:** see footer

**Communications:** Notice of 2016 Meeting Schedule was reviewed. A change was made to clarify that subcommittees were not held to a quorum.

Motion: Gregory    Second: Keyser    Approved: All

**Reports:** There were no reports.

**Approval of Minutes:** There were no minutes to approve.

**Review of Applications:** There were no applications to approve.

#### **Old Business:**

- 1) Members of the 2015 Environmental Commission Gregory and Keyser reported on their activities from the previous year which were minimal, but included a review of the application for the new Auto Parts store on Route 9.
- 2) Members of the 2015 Green Advisory Committee Keyser, Ludgate, B Bender, and L Bender reported on their 2015 activities that included: receiving bronze certification from Sustainable Jersey; working with the Somers Point Business Association; hosting and participating in community events such as Bayfest and the Somers Point Health Fair/Walk; and planting a native plant garden of bayberries and beach plums at the Ocean Ave end of the Somers Point bike path.
- 3) Sean McGuigan, council liaison for the Green Advisory Committee attended for this portion of the meeting to report on farmer's market progress made in 2015 and to request that the Green Team continue to make strides to have a farmer's market in 2016. The committee briefly discussed possible locations and times and also the importance of recruiting volunteers to make it a reality in 2016. The committee agreed to work on this project.

Meetings are open to the public pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act [N.J.S.A 1014-6. (1973)]. Notices and Agendas of meetings are provided to two newspapers and posted in the City Clerk's Office.

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## **New Business:**

- 1) L Bender briefly explained the Sustainable Jersey program and recommended that each member take the time to visit [sustainablejersey.com](http://sustainablejersey.com) > Actions to familiarize themselves with the program. L Bender stated she would have a copy of the list of actions for the committee at the next meeting and also that she would e-mail a list of the actions already completed by the City that contributed to certification.
- 2) L Bender explained that the mayor Discuss Mayor's Wellness Campaign, actions completed and smoking cessation program offered by the hospital. The hospital wishes to have the City of Somers Point offer Shore Medical Center's smoking cessation program to its employees, but the concern of Mayor Glasser and Councilman McGuigan was the cost. B Bender mentioned that many health plans offer discount or reward gift card (\$) to plan members who quit smoking or make other positive lifestyle decisions. Gregory suggested that a member of the team contact Wes Swain to get the contact information for our health plan agent.
- 3) Brainstorm for Green Business Recognition Program is a task that group members will undertake initially via e-mail communication. L Bender will send to the group the Sustainable Jersey requirements to earn credit for establishing a green business recognition program. L Bender explained that she had already presented an overview of the Green Advisory Committee and its goal of earning Sustainable Jersey certification to the Somers Point Business Association in 2015. Gregory, as a member of the SPBA, suggested that once the team comes up with a list of ideas and requirements for green business recognition, that L Bender present the program at an SPBA breakfast meeting.
- 4) L Bender explained that she and Keyser as Green Advisory Committee members met with the Arts Commission in 2015 and that the Arts Commission named themselves the Creative Team for Somers Point with Arts Commission member Jeanette Celucci to act as liaison to the Green Team for the groups to work together to come up with the City's Creative Assests Inventory and develop future plans for a Creative Placemaking Plan for Somers Point.

There was an informal discussion of an idea of the Green Thumb Garden Club regarding landscaping in a few city gardens. As the project is developed further by its own membership, the Green Team will be kept up to date on the status and would perhaps like to have the City partner with the project as it progresses.

Motion made for L Bender to write up these meeting notes for distribution to the group at which point members who would like to follow up on tasks required to move projects forward would be able to offer their time and assistance.

Motion: Gregory      Second: Keyser      Approved: All

**Public Portion:** There were no members of the public in attendance.

**Adjournment:** Gregory motioned to adjourn and Keyser seconded the motion. L Bender closed the meeting at 8:05 PM.

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