



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

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City of Somers Point—Green Team JUNE 6, 2016 MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Present: Keyser, Ludgate, Reinert, B Bender, and L Bender

Absent: Gregory, Green

Open Public Meetings Act** (see footer)

There were no communications to present.

The minutes were reviewed. Keyser motioned to approve and Ludgate seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as written.

Old Business:

1) The Four Corners Project - The group discussed that members of the Green Thumb Garden Club and Green Team reached out to all of the businesses that received a letter inviting them to “adopt a corner” to get feedback on why they did not accept the invitation. No businesses responded to the letter or the requests for feedback. The Green Team discussed that it was probably a difficult time to commit themselves to taking on a new job, especially one that didn’t pay.

Since landscaping businesses rely less on community outreach than some other types of businesses in Somers Point, the group discussed an idea to send out the same letter to other types of local businesses to “adopt a corner”. These businesses could choose a landscaper to design and maintain the small plot of land or maintain it themselves. Some design standards would still apply and the businesses would still be able to put in signage that they “Adopted the Corner”.

The group decided to move forward with the project in the fall after the busy season.

2) The group discussed the Business Recognition Program, specifically sustainability actions that would apply to businesses and associated points. L Bender agreed to have a sketch of the program and tiered level at the next meeting. The goal is to present the program on a small scale to the Somers Point Business Association and EDAC for their input. At that point the program can be finalized and presented for full acceptance by City Council.

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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3) Review Bayfest Success - L Bender stated that the table had a large number of visitors. More visitors than 2015 Bayfest were engaging in conversation and signing up for the e-mail list. Those who lived in Somers Point were asked to sign a Sustainability Pledge—22 pledges were signed at the festival.

L Bender had subsequently approached City government for permission to put pledge cards in the mailboxes for each city commission, committee, and employee. B Bender suggested putting the pledges in the tax bill. The group agreed this was a good idea.

4) Patcong Creek Clean-up Recap - L Bender mentioned that there was good participation for the Patcong Creek Clean-up including a group that tackled the Somers Point section. Ron Meischker from the Recreation Commission, Sean McGuigan from City Council, and Mayor Glasser came out to participate. They were on a boat collecting the trash from the paddlers to lighten their loads. L Bender mentioned she participated with her two sons and had a great time.

New Business:

1) Farmers Market - Lisa Mentioned she would reach out to the public e-mail list to try to get a group together to act as a Farmers Market committee to make it a reality.

2) L Bender opened up the topic of future Sustainable Jersey actions for the group to discuss. The topics were Effective Parking Management, Support Local Business, Buy Local Campaign and Natural Resource Inventory. Since there wasn't much time left in the meeting, discussion was minimal, but Reinert suggested that there are sometimes grants provided for creating a Natural Resources Inventory.

Keyser motioned and Ludgate seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

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