



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

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City of Somers Point—Green Team MARCH 7, 2016 MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Gregory, Green

Open Public Meetings Act** (see footer)

L Bender presented the letter regarding Environmental Remediation at 100 E Maryland Ave, Block 1007, Lot 1, for their information.

Ms. Bender stated she would send the Feb 1, 2016 meeting minutes out by e-mail for approval.

The members reviewed the following application: **Eastern Warehouse Auto Parts/AKA Galloway Auto & Tire Center**: Application for a new structure to be located at **420 New Rd, Block 499, Lot 15.02**

The Green Team thought it was a thorough application that allowed for proper green buffers, even more than necessary in that zone. One topic that was brought up for future consideration for zoning in general is the issue of excessive parking and possibly instituting the use of permeable pavers into Somers Point code. The Green Team ultimately approved the application with the suggestion that the applicant utilize more native plants. L Bender stated she would send the proper approval to the Construction Office.

A member of the public who is active with Surfrider Foundation and is interested in helping with the Green Team attended the meeting and was invited up to sit with the Green Team members.

Old Business:

1) The Green Team approved spending \$300 for annual ANJEC membership.

2) Keyser reported on the Four-corners Garden Project explaining that the Green Thumb Garden Club wanted to proceed, but needed verification that Guy Martin from Public Works would be repairing the irrigation. B Bender said he would follow up with Mr. Martin. Keyser said she would have the Garden Club Director write up her ideas so we could present the project to the City for approval to move forward. The group decided it would be best to write a letter to send to all landscapers registered with the City/County to let them apply with a landscaping plan on a first come-first serve

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basis. Keyser also reported that the Green Thumb Garden Club would be removing invasive plants from the four-corners gardens and the Somers Mansion Colonial Garden.

3) The group took a few moments to brainstorm for a possible Green Business Recognition Program. Ideas included: bicycle racks, recycling, buying recycled products, selling recycled products, energy efficiency program participation, water conservation, vertical gardening or herb gardens (restaurants), compostable and size-appropriate take-out containers (restaurants), recycling food waste/grease (restaurants), having a donation program, composting, double-sided printing, reusable bag policy, and participation in litter pick-up programs (Adopt-a-Road or Clean Communities).

New Business:

1) The group briefly reviewed Sustainable Jersey actions to choose goal actions for 2016. Since the list is very long, the group decided to review the actions on our own time and come back to the meeting with ideas. One idea as mentioned previously is to institute more litter abatement. Reinert and Ludgate proposed businesses taking on more litter prevention and clean-up at their own sites and possibly having the Green Team adopt a site to be a role model for the City. The group also liked the idea of instituting a reusable bag campaign. L Bender suggested doing a program like Sustainable Downbeach where they printed "Got Bags" stickers for people to put in their car windows to remember their reusable bags when they go into the store.

2) L Bender reported that as part of the Mayor's Wellness Campaign, the deputy clerk will work with Shore Memorial Cancer Center on setting up a smoking cessation program for City Employees.

Mr. Meunier from the public thanked the group for including him and provided his contact information for participation in future meetings.

Keyser motioned and B Bender seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM.

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