



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

1 West New Jersey Ave, Somers Point, NJ 08244 . SPGreenTeam@yahoo.com

City of Somers Point—Green Team SEPT 12, 2016 MINUTES

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

Roll Call:

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

Absent: Gregory, Green

Open Public Meetings Act** (see footer)

Communications: L Bender told the group that ANJEC had sent an invoice to her e-mail. Lisa will forward to the City Clerk.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from June 6, 2016 Meeting were reviewed. Keyser motioned to approve and Reinert seconded the motion.

Review of Applications: There were no applications to review.

Old Business:

1) L Bender asked for a team member volunteer to get permission from Council and Administration to move forward with opening up the Four Corners Project to local non-landscaping businesses. Linda volunteered and said she would e-mail him. [Follow up: e-mail from Wes directed the group to not move forward with the Four Corners project as the City is going in an alternate direction.]

2) The business recognition program was discussed with the points system written up. All committee members agreed on the point levels. The group did want to add to the “garden” section to mention “curb appeal” gardens are accepted along with rain gardens—perhaps just a more general garden point option. The group agreed to keep each description simple and perhaps have a link to websites for more information on a specific topic. The group thought we should research grants for green business recognition to purchase the materials that would be required to promote the program and then to award a promotion kit to the businesses that are recognized.

3) Paul added to Old Business with a follow-up on the Sustainable Jersey (SJ) Summit he attended in June. He explained how the SJ program presented a report card for the state. The result of the report card was that the state needed more help with recycling and waste management.

New Business:

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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1) Bike Path Grant - \$755,000 grant to widen path and update lighting in addition to \$171,000 grant to extend the bike path from current end to the Route 52 causeway bridge. Ludgate asked if any of the money from the grant could be earmarked for educating the public works department on native plants and gardening. This way, landscaping for the new path would be planned with purpose and sustainably.

2) Tax Bill Insertion - Bill volunteered to get dates for submitting items for insertion into tax bills.

3) Litter Pick-up/Adopt-a-Road Program Creation - Keyser reminded the group of the ACUA litter pick-up program. She said that it is set up at the county level, but the City needs to have a volunteer list in order to have people for the ACUA to call when there is a report of litter. L Bender volunteered to contact Public Works to see if they have any input. [Follow up: Guy Martin agreed that Public Works could be the point of contact for ACUA. How it would work is: ACUA would contact Public Works to report where there is a litter incident. Then, Public Works would refer to a list of volunteers (provided by the Green Team) to ensure they would correct the problem. The final step would be to determine how to get supplies from the ACUA for the cleanup. Would the volunteer make contact and set up a cleanup or would they just take care of it themselves?]

4) Soil Test Kits for Schools - These would be donated by City/Green Team. Paul shared with the group that he has been working on a garden at St. Joseph Regional School. He said an Eagle Scout helped to set up the garden and now Paul is working with the teachers to maintain it. He presented at an in-service day for the teachers to explain how they can utilize the garden in their teaching. He offered to do it for other schools and this goes along with an idea he had in the past to set up a garden "bucket" with tools to test soil and measure for establishing a garden. He figured the Green Team/City could gift a bucket to each school and teachers could borrow it as needed. L Bender shared that she thought it was a great idea and that the same could be done with an energy kit for energy lessons.

Paul said he would contact the Foundation for Education to see if we could get a grant to get the kits together.

Public Portion - no members of the public were in attendance

Adjournment - Bender motioned and Reinert seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

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