

**BOROUGH OF SOMERVILLE
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES – November 9, 2010**

Present: *Tom Auffenorde (Chair), Harry James, Gina Stravick, Vijay Tulsiani, Teena Utter, Larry Cleveland (Planning Board Liaison) and Tom Mitchell (Council Liaison)*

Absent (excused): *Betty Krupka and Diana Rehborn*

Members of Public Present: *None*

I. OPENING:

- A. Meeting called to order at 7:40 pm by Chair Tom Auffenorde.
- B. October 2010 minutes reviewed and approved.

II. COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. Notice from PSE&G to Somerville and Hillsborough regarding diversion of parkland by aerially traversing transmission lines at Block 123.02, Lot 1. Fourteen acres in Somerville will be affected along with a block in Hillsborough. A meeting to review the proposal will be held at the Hillsborough Town Hall on December 9, 2010. Tom will follow up with the PSE&G contact person.

III. REPORTS

- A. Planning Board:
 - Wonder Years Academy is proposing opening a new Child Care Center on Route 202 North between the Diner and the Hess Station (just north of the Somerville Circle). Vehicle entry/exit is a major issue.
 - Proposal to expand Division Street Apartments: Parking is a major issue.
 - Davenport Street Apartments on hold due to need to bury the overhead utilities.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. NJ DEP Tree Maintenance Grant: Pruning is ongoing. Four streets remain but will be finished in a week or so.
- B. Community Forestry Management Plan CEU Seminar by Kevin Scibilia will be held on Saturday Nov 13 from 10-12 starting in the Mayor's office.
- C. Regional Center Challenge Grant, Greenway exercise stations and signage: Grant has been received and the next step is to do vendor selection.
- D. PSE&G Utility Pole Project on Bridge Street and Union Avenue appears to be complete. However, the old poles are still in place. Larry said that PSE&G should be reminded to remove the old poles in about 6-8 months (after Verizon and Cablevision have moved their lines to the new poles).

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Annual Pruning workshop will be held on Saturday, November 20.
- B. December Meeting to start at 6:30 pm. It will be followed by dinner at Martinos Cuban Restaurant.
- C. Vijay mentioned the Thermal Leak Detection program offer by the Green Brook Environmental Commission in conjunction with their Fire Department using infra-red cameras owned by the Fire Department. Tom will follow up with the Somerville Fire Department to find equipment available in Somerville. Vijay will follow up with contacts from the Green Brook Environmental Commission and get more details on the program.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.