



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

Open Space, Environment and Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes Dispositions

Monday, May 8, 2023

6:00 PM

Virtual

This meeting was held via GoToWebinar and was called to order by Chair Burnley at 6:10 pm and adjourned at 8:04 pm with a roll call vote of four in favor (Councilor Wilson, Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Scott, and Chair Burnley), one absent (Councilor Pineda Neufeld), and none opposed.

Others present: Neha Singh – Mayor’s Office, Renee Scott, Leigh Meunier, Christine Blais – OSE, Luisa Oliveira – OSPCD, Stephanie Widzowski – Clerk of Committees.

Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Willie Burnley Jr., Vice Chair Jefferson Thomas (J.T.)
Scott, Beatriz Gomez Mouakad and Jake Wilson

Absent: Judy Pineda Neufeld

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Space, Environment and Energy Committee Meeting of February 16, 2023. [23-0263](#)

Accepted

Aye: Chairperson Burnley Jr., Vice Chair Scott and City Councilor At Large Wilson

Absent: Ward Five City Councilor Gomez Mouakad and Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld

2. That the Director of Public Space and Urban Forestry, the Director of the Office of Sustainability and Environment, and the Director of Communications and Community Engagement discuss with this Council, opportunities to increase communication and education of residents on the impact of black swallow-wort and how to effectively remove and dispose of it. [23-0217](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Pineda Neufeld

Recommended to be marked work completed

3. That the Director of Public Space and Urban Forestry update this Council on plans to dramatically increase the number of trees in Foss Park. [22-0828](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Wilson, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Pineda Neufeld

Recommended to be marked work completed

4. That the appropriate staff update this Council on the status of the community gardens and discuss opportunities to create a mutual aid garden. [22-0687](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Scott

Recommended to be marked work completed

5. That the Director of Planning & Zoning and the Director of the Office of Sustainability and Environment report on strategies to integrate and implement photovoltaics, weatherization, and electrification in Historic Properties. [22-0569](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Gomez Mouakad

Recommended to be marked work completed

6. That the Director of Sustainability and Environment update this Council on any plans for a municipal composting program. [22-0951](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Kelly and Councilor Strezo

Recommended to be marked work completed

7. That the Director of Inspectional Services report to this Council on the average time it takes for residents to have solar panels installed, identify the bottlenecks in this process, and discuss how this process can be streamlined and accelerated. [22-0565](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Kelly and Councilor Gomez Mouakad

Recommended to be marked work completed

8. That the Director of Housing and the Director of the Office of Sustainability and Environment work with the Somerville Community Corporation to explore funding and rebates available for weatherization and other sustainability measures. [22-0274](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Gomez Mouakad and Councilor Scott

Kept in committee

Referenced Documents:

- OSEE - 2023-05-08 PPZ Preservation-Sustainability Memo Packet (with 22-0569)