

Minutes of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission meeting January 9, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM, and the Sunshine Law notice read. The roll was called. Present were: W. Andrews, C. MacIvor, D. Pydeski, A. Vernick, and P. Walitsky; and Council liaison T. Chase. J. Clyde and D. Triggs arrived at 7:08, A. Schmidt at 7:10.

Chair's report: correspondence: two letters notifying the Commission about wetlands verification, and a hazardous waste verification.

Public Session: Kirk Frost, Peoples Line Rd., spoke about the proposed natural gas compressor 296 and related matters which affect it and neighboring compressors (205 in Lawrence Township, 207 in Old Bridge). A similar 16,000 hp gas-powered compressor has recently been installed in Pennsylvania. He asked for a letter from the Environmental Commission; Linda Powell, also of the Advisory Committee, has made a similar request at the December meeting. The Commission, as before, asked for a detailed proposal statement that it might support.

The minutes of the Dec. 5 meeting were approved, with one correction.

A. Schmidt reported on what is and is not posted on the Commission's township web page. 2016 agendas and minutes are not posted; both agendas and minutes are posted only for Jan. to Sept. 2015, none thereafter. For 2012-2014 minutes, but not agendas, are not posted; nothing is posted from earlier years. W. Andrews will pursue with Justin Heyman the posting of all minutes.

Plans review: one plan, which had arrived just after the Commission's December meeting, has already been approved by the Board of Zoning Adjustment, therefore comments are moot (but none would have been made).

Sustainable Jersey: T. Chase described new Sustainable Jersey actions publicized at the League of Municipalities meeting in November and at a Middlesex County Water Resources Association meeting that day (But not yet posted in detail on the Sustainable Jersey web site), and possible actions for the Green Team to work on this year.

New Business Update: all members up for reappointment were reappointed by the township Council on Jan. 3, and W. Andrews was reappointed chair. The Commission discussed how to attract someone for the Alternate vacancy, which has lasted a year already. W. Andrews is still working on the 2016 accomplishments report. He has sent out the 2017 meeting schedule, but people had trouble printing it out; he will send it again. He has sent an e-mail to APLN responding to their request to make a presentation, directing them to the Open Space Committee which actually crafts the deer controls program.

For the updated Environmental Resource Inventory, only final approval by the Planning Board remains (it will be an addendum to the Master Plan). Inquiries to Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association about the progress of removal of dams on the Millstone River have not received a response. The front page article in the winter Franklin Times on the township's Silver certification by Sustainable Jersey was noted.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.