

Minutes of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission Meeting March 6, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM, and the Sunshine Law notice read. The roll was called. Present were: W. Andrews, J. Clyde, C. MacIvor, D. Pydeski, A. Schmidt, D. Triggs, A. Vernick and P. Walitsky; and Council liaison T. Chase. There were also a number of guests: Peter and Anna Merrett, Linda Powell, Sara Parks, John Walker, and another whose name I didn't get.

Chair's report: one letter was received, concerning wetlands determination for the southeast corner of Mettlers Lane and Schoolhouse Rd.

The minutes of the meeting of Feb. 6 were approved without change.

Web site: nothing new. Past minutes are *still* not up; further correspondence with Justin Heyman is needed.

One plan was reviewed – adding a second story to a residence.

Sustainable Jersey: the Green Team will meet on March 8. Chris Obropta, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, will speak on green infrastructure.

Community Gardens: John Walker suggested contacting Carl Hauck (Public Works) for delivery of several loads of leaf compost to the gardens – not done last year.

New business: W. Andrews has just sent out a partial draft of the annual report; 2017 Commission goals will follow. The revised Environmental Resource Inventory is still awaiting Planning Board approval as an appendix to the Master Plan – to be discussed with other Master Plan updates. A resident who expressed interest in appointment to the EC was invited to this meeting, and said she would come, but did not appear. T. Chase reported that permitting for removal of the Weston Dam is moving ahead, Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association members were asked to write to the Dam Safety office of NJDEP in support of a permit for its removal.

J. Clyde announced that the spring clean-up is confirmed for the morning (9-12) of April 29, at Seeley's Brook at Easton Ave. (by the IHOP). A satellite clean-up will be on Mile Run if there are enough volunteers. A. Schmidt transmitted a comment from Fran Varacalli that clean-up is really the responsibility of the property owner; we might seek sponsorship from Stop & Shop.

A. Schmidt presented the revised resolution on the pipeline compressor, with several changes, and moved its acceptance. This passed unanimously, except that D. Triggs abstained because his DEP job does not allow him to take positions. This will be sent directly to FERC, copies to elected officials, Council and NJDEP.

W. Andrews will contact the Watershed Ambassadors about having a rain barrel workshop in June. He continues to try to get someone from the Division of Fish and Wildlife to speak on deer control.

A. Schmidt reported a sick raccoon on his deck; it escaped to under the deck before Animal Control personnel arrived.

The meeting was opened to the public. An extended discussion ensued, on various topics.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.