

Minutes of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission meeting May 1, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM, and the Sunshine Law notice read. The roll was called. Present were: W. Andrews, J. Clyde, M. Lauko (arrived 7:08), C. MacIvor, D. Pydeski (arrived 7:10), A. Schmidt, D. Triggs, A. Vernick, and P. Walitsky; Council liaison T. Chase; and guest Stanislav Jaracz (Green Team member).

Members reported that the rear door of the Municipal Building was guarded by a watch-goose.

Chair's report: no correspondence; he has added New Business as an agenda item, as requested at the 4/17 meeting.

The minutes of the 4/17 meeting were approved with corrections.

Web site: W. Andrews now knows how to get minutes, new and old, posted on the web site. Members are requested to send updated biographies to him for posting.

There were no plans for review.

Sustainable Jersey: in response to a question from Stanislav Jaracz, T. Chase explained how time limits for Sustainable Jersey actions, which vary, are applied in the recertification process.

Community gardens: T. Chase explained where the community garden is to be located at Catalpa Park.

Old business: W. Andrews stated that the 2016 annual report is about finished, he needed one figure (cost of membership in ANJEC), which A. Vernick supplied. The 2017 goals will be the same as for 2016. The ERI item will be removed from the agenda until the Planning Board acts on it; Mark Healey will put it before the Planning Board with other revised items for the Master Plan.

Franklin Day (Sept. 23): the EC will apply for space under the township tent. We have EC brochures; M. Lauko suggested obtaining other brochures from ANJEC. She also suggested giving high school students space to display their science projects. J. Clyde will contact the high school about this.

T. Chase explained how Mark Healey filed as intervenor on behalf of the EC, with the Commission's resolution. Discussion ensued about the compressor proposed for Franklin, the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project of which it is a part, and the PennEast proposed pipeline. We await the draft Environmental Impact Statement.

There was no update on removal of the Weston Dam; it is still before the DEP Dam Safety Office, according to Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association.

The 2017 stream clean-up, of Seeley's Brook at Easton Ave. on April 29, was a success (final figures for weight of trash removed not yet available). There was less trash than in previous clean-ups at this site, in part due to a new fence erected by Stop & Shop which inhibited trash disposal from that side.

M. Lauko cited the Central Jersey Steam Team, which assists in river clean-ups from the water. She is trying to contact the township's Clean Communities co-ordinator, to learn how the township adheres to requirements of that program, including twice-yearly clean-ups; is the EC's clean-up included? S. Jaracz asked about school children cleaning up around their schools. D. Pydeski suggested that the Pop Warner football program should 'adopt' Middlebush Park for trash clean-up. A. Schmidt suggested that whenever a group or individual rents a park for an event, they should be held responsible for cleaning up any trash from their event. M. Lauko suggested that police enforce this. J. Clyde suggested talking to Alice Osipowitz about this.

New Business: A. Schmidt reported having gone to Washington for the Climate March on April 29. The temperature there was 91°, matching a record for the date.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.