

Minutes of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission meeting September 18, 2017

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

Chair's report: T. Chase reported to him that the prospective candidate was away on vacation at the time of the last meeting, had a conflict tonight, but will be at the next EC meeting.

Three letters were received concerning applications for wetland permits, and also an announcement of an August 31 meeting. The rain barrel workshop Sept. 9 went well. Ten persons registered (one did not appear), but some came with additional family members. This leaves 10 more barrels from L'Oréal to be stored for a future workshop.

Franklin Day is Sept. 23; has everything needed been printed? W. Andrews and P. Walitsky will be there at 10 AM to set up the EC table; Walitsky has LED bulbs from Philips to give out.

The minutes of the Aug 21 meeting were approved.

Web site: W. Andrews has sent current minutes, plus minutes from the first half of the year, to be posted, but IT has not yet posted them. The agendas of the July 17 and August 21 meetings *have* been posted. The posted listing of Commission members is out of date (still has A. Vernick as chair. Terms of members are also out of date.) A. Schmidt now cannot get into the section of the EC web site where viewers would post questions. The link to this section should be obvious on the home page. He also reported that a botcheck was necessary to access the e-mail address established to receive questions to the Environmental Commission. Annual reports for 2009 through 2015 are available on the web site, but not 2016; nor are 2016 and 2017 Goals and Objectives posted. Mark Healey, passing by at this moment, was questioned as to how minutes and agendas are supposed to be sent for posting; he suggested sending them to *both* him and Justin Heyman.

One plan was reviewed (a third revision).

Sustainable Jersey: is advertising a Climate Change symposium on Sept. 27 (admission \$75) and a Mayors' Summit on Oct. 7, at our municipal building; is this open to the public? [It is, for payment of \$10 to NJ League of Conservation Voters.]

Community gardens: all plots at Naaman Williams Park were used this year.

Local actions to support the Paris accords: W. Andrews will write up a list of suggestions to send to the mayor.

Environmental Stewardship awards: plaques have *not* been ordered; we need a response from Mark Healey.

Stream clean-ups (researched by M. Lauko): there is one on the Raritan River, Piscataway side, on Saturday Sept. 23, 8 AM.

206 Compressor: the draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected soon. The EC should be notified immediately; A. Schmidt for one would like to review relevant portions. [FERC has just sent a letter to Williams/Transco, requesting certain information within 21 days in order to prepare the EIS. Transco is falling behind schedule. Information requested includes all correspondence with NJ DEP.]

Deer seminar: did not happen with Div. of Fish and Game speaker. W. Andrews is trying to get someone from Somerset County Dept. of Agriculture. Deer kill on roads was discussed, including dispatch of injured deer by shooting – do they use lead bullets, which would be injurious to vultures feeding on carcasses? [Township police may collect and bury these carcasses.]

Clean Communities grants: M. Lauko has been looking into how grant money is spent. The bulk is used to support the Franklin Times newsletter; residual money is given to Public Works to support roadside clean-ups. It should be used to inform and involve the community.

Charging stations for electric vehicles: P. Walitsky has looked into this. Both the state and PSE&G have grant programs to support these, but the money for this year is all used up. An application form for next year is available on line; the mayor must sign the supplication. This would get us on the waiting list. Systems for accessories in police vehicles were also discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.