

Minutes of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission meeting May 2, 2016

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

Chair's report: no correspondence was received.

The minutes of the meeting of April 18 were approved (removing the bracketed insertions).

Two site plans were reviewed (garage setback, sign size and setback); no environmental issues.

Web site: nothing received. The rain barrel workshop poster has been posted, and flyers are in the municipal building (3 locations), library, and senior center, and one is posted at Stop & Shop.

There was discussion of whether EC minutes have been posted on the web site; recently they haven't been. W. Andrews will pursue this.

The rain barrel workshop on May 16 will begin at 6 PM. The EC meeting should be advertised for 8 PM that night (W. Andrews will be among those making a barrel). We don't have a recent update on how many have signed up for the workshop; two weeks ago seven had already signed up.

Sustainable Jersey: T. Chase and W. Andrews discussed the recent Green Team meeting, especially the need to involve young people (M. Burke had commented that young people don't use Facebook, rather Instagram and SnapChat, hence are not being reached by township outreach). The next meeting is scheduled for May 11.

Mark Healey, township Director of Planning, described progress – but not completion – of the Update of the Environmental Resource Inventory (new maps are needed) and introduced the proposed update of the stream corridor ordinance. This has been reviewed by Engineering and Zoning (who would enforce it). The emphasis is on describing and regulating *undisturbed* land close to streams, not existing back yards, parking lots, etc. A. Schmidt suggested specifically including upstream tributaries as part of C-1 streams, and that protected areas be measured from the edge of the stream channel, not the center of the stream. Discussion centered on whether disturbance in the stream corridor should be prohibited (subject to possible variances) or just regulated (which may create, in the minds of Planning and Zoning Boards, a presumption slightly in favor of allowing the disturbance). Mark Healey suggested having a strong statement of purpose of the ordinance at the beginning, which applicants would have to show their proposal would not violate. He will work on revising the draft along the lines suggested by the Commission.

Community Gardens: Rita Binn has resigned as coordinator of the Common Ground garden, though she will carry through on implementation of actions funded by the 2015-2016 CDBG grant. She has consulted with master gardeners concerning the irrigation system, which in 2015 kept the garden *too* wet.

P. Walitsky showed the design of the Environmental Commission banner, to be printed in green, for use at Franklin Day in September. He reported communication from Tiffany Delaney authorizing the Commission's participation. Literature and give-away items were discussed.

D. Triggs reported being attacked by a deer (doe) in Middlebush Park. A. Schmidt and C. MacIvor have had fawns in their gardens.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.