

## Minutes of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission meeting June 6, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM, and the Sunshine Law notice read. The roll was called. Present: W. Andrews, J. Clyde, C. MacIvor, A. Vernick, and P. Walitsky; and Council liaison T. Chase. A. Schmidt arrived at 7:32 PM. Absent: D. Pydeski, D. Triggs.

Chair's report: there was one letter, about a Letter of Interpretation request on Bennetts Lane. The Arlington Ave. park proposal was discussed, and the certified letters to Commission members announcing the hearing; this is a Green Acres requirement, for a hearing on changing the use of land on the Green Acres roster. Also discussed was the archiving of minutes and agendas (to be sent to the Township Clerk).

The minutes of the May 16 meeting were approved.

There was one site plan for review, a car wash in Franklin Park.

Sustainable Jersey: T. Chase reported on submitting the 2016 recertification application, with 465 points worth of actions. He described some of the actions. C. MacIvor will write an article for the township web site on prescription drug disposal.

T. Chase reported that the new fence at the Naaman Williams Park community garden has been installed, though not yet the new raised beds.

Possible candidates for 2016 Environmental Stewardship awards were discussed. A. Schmidt and Ted Chase will do more research on these possible candidates and report back to the Commission.

Additional items for the EC table at Franklin Day in September are being sought.

T. Chase reported on a meeting of the Wildlife Control subcommittee, on the deer hunting program for 2016-7. They are recommending early morning, as well as afternoon, hours for firearms hunting during the shotgun/muzzle-loading rifle season (Nov. 23 – Feb. 11), to achieve greater control of deer numbers. A. Schmidt and W. Andrews reported seeing fewer deer in their neighborhood. T. Chase passed on a report of bear damage in Kingston.

W. Andrews reported on a meeting with Diane Leach-Thompson of township Community Resource and Services Dept. and (by phone) Michèle Samarya-Timm, county Health Dept., about gardening as a part of the summer child care program at 935 Hamilton St. They need a water source next to the garden area, the only outside tap being on the other side of the building; there is a gutter which could feed a rain barrel. W. Andrews will contact NJWSA about getting a rain barrel.

The new Environmental Resource Inventory is not quite ready; T. Chase showed an almost complete draft. The Commission will receive the final draft by e-mail. The stream corridor ordinance has passed the Land Use Committee and Planning Board, and is on track for introduction at the next Council meeting.

W. Andrews reported that the Fight the Bite presentation on arthropod-borne diseases and how to avoid them, May 17, went well, with a Rutgers professor as principal speaker. Advances in mosquito modification for disease prevention were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM.