

# Minutes of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission Meeting

May 15, 2017

- I. **Sunshine Law** – Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM, and the Sunshine Law notice read.
- II. **Roll call**
  - a. Present: W. Andrews - Chair, J. Clyde, M. Lauko, C. MacIvor, D. Pydeski, A. Schmidt, D. Triggs
  - b. Excused: T. Chase – Council liaison, A. Vernick, P. Walitsky
- III. **Chair Report** – Discussion regarding whether name tags should be used at the EC meetings. Consensus evolved that they are not necessary since the meetings are not televised.
- IV. **Minutes** – The minutes of the 5/1/17 meeting were approved with amendments.
- V. **Website** – W. Andrews will send materials for posting in batches. Each batch will consist of materials from one quarter. Once the postings are up to date, he will send materials for each meeting separately as they become available.
- VI. **Plans Review**
  - a. None
  - b. The commission received a notice of a wetland permit application with the state of NJ for a lot on Davidson Ave. The Commission is usually copied on such letters.
- VII. **Sustainable Jersey** – Silver award received by township in November 2016.
- VIII. **Community Gardens** – The town currently has two community gardens. A third garden is planned for Catalpa Park (not sponsored by EC) earliest planting is spring 2018.
- IX. **Old business Update**
  - a. **2016 annual report** – Report is completed.
    1. W. Andrews will send document to M. Lauko to remove any remaining markups.
    2. W. Andrews will ask township clerk whom to send final EC 2015 Annual Report to.
  - b. **2017 commission goals** – Will be the same as for 2016 and will add “track followup on Franklin Township Resolution against the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (FERC Docket CP17-101)
  - c. **Other stream cleanup events of interest in the watershed** – E.g., Central Jersey Stream Team: South Bound Brook flood plain cleanup May 20 at 9 AM. EC does not commit to any particular volunteer team, but should keep informed of their activities.
  - d. **Franklin Day, 9-23-17**
    - i. EC has to sign up to be included in the township tent. W. Andrews will inquire of Bob Vornlocker.
    - ii. M. Lauko searching for handouts and is interested in promoting rain gardens that could help mitigate flooding. Discussion ensued about whether schools would get involved in creating rain gardens. J. Clyde will approach schools. (*new agenda item*)
  - e. **Environmental Commission Resolution against Compressor Station/EIS** – awaiting DEIS. Rally will be held at the Imperia on Saturday 5/20/17.
  - f. **River-friendly information/Millstone dam removal status** – awaiting decision.
  - g. **2017 stream cleanup (Seeleys Brook), April 29, 2017, Earth Day event** – Discussed selecting a site for next year’s cleanup that may have a greater amount of debris to remove. Consider Canal Road. The road is difficult to clean because it is very narrow. Part of the road is closed (East Millstone to Butler Road) twice a year for the township “Walk and Roll” event. Next events are May 21 and September 17. Consider coordinating with Stony Brook Millstone Watershed volunteers for spring 2018. J. Clyde and M. Lauko coordinate next event.
  - h. **Deer Seminar** – FWS staff is being asked to do a Deer Seminar this Fall. A local group wants to talk about non-lethal methods of controlling the deer population.
  - i. **Rain barrel workshop** – Twenty rain barrels have been picked up and stored by DPW. Carl Hauck has been notified of the date of the workshop (9/9/17). Brittany will start advertising in July (venues other than township newsletter). Newsletter items for Sept 1 publication have to be submitted by June 1.
- X. **New business** – M. Lauko reported about NJ Clean Communities funding received by the township. She called B. Vornlocker about how the funds are distributed and is waiting to hear back. The last record of the funds on the township web site are from 2014 (budget line item and staff).

**XI. Public discussion** – None

**XII. Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.