

Minutes of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission June 5, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM, and the Sunshine Law notice read. The roll was called. Present: W. Andrews, M. Lauko, D. Pydeski, A. Schmidt, P. Walitsky; and Council liaison T. Chase. C. MacIvor arrived at 7:26 PM. Absent: J. Clyde (ill), D. Triggs, A. Vernick.

Chairman's report: W. Andrews reported that the deer control seminar is set for August 7, in the Council chambers. He will contact Brittany Musolino of Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association for materials to publicize the rain barrel workshop. Correspondence included an invitation to a 2017 gala celebration of the Great Swamp Association (for a large contribution) and a letter from ACT Engineers responding to DEP questions/criticisms of the NJ Water Supply Authority's plans for dredging the D&R Canal (largely concerning notifications and publicity).

Minutes of the May 15 meeting: A. Schmidt commented that all approved minutes should be sent to township Information Technology (IT) for posting ASAP. Minor corrections to the May 15 minutes were noted, and the minutes were approved with these corrections.

Website: updated biographies are being posted, via Justin Heyman of IT.

Plans: two. A two lot subdivision on Wilson Rd. will remove a house on well and septic, and proposes two new houses on township water and sewer.

Sustainable Jersey: T. Chase is working on a Complete Streets resolution. C. MacIvor reported to drainage trenches added to DeMott Lane during recent work, which get the water off the street into temporary pools which infiltrate.

Old business: the 2016 annual report is finished. The 2017 goals will be the same as for 2016, with the addition of opposition to the 206 natural gas compressor. Stream clean-ups in the watershed: on the south branch of the Raritan in Branchburg and Hillsborough. M. Lauko described her clean-up along Canal Rd during the recent 'Walk and Roll' closure to traffic, and the need for clean-up along Blackwells Mills Rd. A sign names a group taking responsibility for clean-up there, but it is not known whether this responsibility is still active. D. Pydeski commented that Clean Communities grants require paperwork from the township describing how the previous grant was used. How is community involvement shown? Is the EC's April stream clean-up cited? M. Lauko and D. Pydeski will summarize what is required.

A. Schmidt suggested that the EC prepare a resolution for the township Council supporting the Paris climate control agreement. D. Pydeski suggests the same. A template for such a resolution is desired. [M. Lauko found the We're Still In website with relevant material, and T. Chase used this in preparing a resolution, which Council passed on June 13.]

Garbage at Middlebush Park is a problem, even before the concession stand opens [scheduled for the fall]. Solar-powered compacting garbage receptacles will help. Can the Pop Warner program be responsible for picking up after their games? Can picking up litter be a requirement for any permits to use the field?

The EC suggests a clean-up along the northern part of Canal Road on Sept. 17 (the next Walk and Roll closure) as well as along the southern portion on July 16 or August 13.

W. Andrews reported that Somerset County will have a drive-by collection of prescription drugs on June 17. [A pick-up of household hazardous waste is also scheduled that day.]

P. Walitsky is again requesting LEDs from Philips Electric, to be given out on Franklin Day.

M. Lauko reported that some towns have an 'Earth Month' in April when police focus on ticketing litterers.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 PM.