

Minutes of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission meeting October 2, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM, and the Sunshine Law notice read. The roll was called. Present were: W. Andrews, J. Clyde, M. Lauko (arrived 7:12), C. MacIvor, D. Pydeski (arrived 7:09), A. Schmidt, D. Triggs, and P. Walitsky; prospective member Jenny-Ann Kershner; and council liaison T. Chase.

Chair's report: Commission participation in Franklin Day was a success. Much literature was handed out, and 288 LED bulbs provided by Philips Electric via P. Walitsky.

The minutes of Sept. 18 were approved with one correction.

Web site: A. Schmidt attempted to reach the page where comments to the Commission may be submitted, but received a "Page Not Found message." He reported this to township IT (making which report required passing a botcheck); no response received as yet. W. Andrews has sent in first and second quarter agendas and minutes; the agendas are posted on the web site, the minutes not yet. He has now sent the annual report.

There were no plans for review.

Sustainable Jersey: Bob Vornlocker is working on getting Franklin Township on the waiting list for a 2018 grant for installing an electric charging station. P. Walitsky reported that General Motors has announced it will produce only electric cars after 2023.

Old business: W. Andrews is working on a list of local actions that could be taken in support of the Paris accords. The Mayors' Summit on this has been postponed to late January – early February.

Environmental Stewardship awards: D. Pydeski is trying to contact vendors of plaques. Franklin Stamp and Key has not responded to messages. The Commission would prefer to use a township based business. The vendor most recently used, Franklin Stamp and Sign, is unacceptable due to frequent typographical errors and font inconsistencies.

Clean-up events: M.Lauko reported on the Sept. 23 clean-up of the Raritan River bank in Piscataway. She reported on a bill introduced in the Legislature to designate the week of Earth Day (April 22) as Litter Law Enforcement Week, with increased enforcement of laws against littering. The bill is still in the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee. Clean Communities funds could pay police overtime for enforcement. She raised questions concerning the township's efforts against littering: does the township have an Adopt a Road program? How much litter has been collected under it? Has the township made any efforts to educate townspeople about Clean Communities other than publications in the township newsletter? Why isn't receipt of the Clean Communities grant recognized by inclusion in the township budget? [Grants received during the year are generally recognized as an amendment to the budget.] A requirement of the Clean Communities grants is that municipalities receiving more than \$25,000 a year must sponsor and publicize at least two community clean-ups each year. Has the town sponsored any clean-ups. [Presumably the EC's Earth Day clean-up would count as one; and the manager might challenge the EC to sponsor a second.] She reported that township Public Works cleaned up litter along Canal Road before the September Walk and Roll road closure.

C. MacIvor reported a "waste containment container" which has been sitting on DeMott Lane all summer. This should be reported to the county Health Dept.

Compressor 206: when FERC issues a draft Environmental Impact Statement it will be announced to all intervenors. At present FERC staff is still asking Williams questions.

Dam removals on the Millstone: J. Kershner will get from Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association (SBMWA) the latest information concerning the Blackwells Mills dam.

Deer seminar: W. Andrews is in contact with someone in the NJ Dept. of Agriculture, who is to recommend someone in Somerset County who might speak to us. J. Kershner reported a symposium on deer in Hopewell Oct. 3. She also described SBMWA's film program. She will look into getting someone from Hopewell to talk to us.

Rain barrel workshop: W. Andrews contacted Carl Hauck about storing the excess barrels.

Electric vehicle charging station: see above under Sustainable Jersey. M. Lauko just got a Nissan Leaf. A. Schmidt suggested putting on the township web site a link to the site listing public charging stations in New Jersey.

T. Chase reported attending a symposium at SBMWA on New Jersey's Pathway to Clean Energy. A 50% reduction in CO₂ emissions is achievable by 2030, through a combination of efficiency (use of efficient appliances) and growth in use of electric vehicles and electric heating.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.