

Minutes of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission Meeting July 18, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM, and the Sunshine Law notice read. The roll was called. Present were: W. Andrews, C. MacIvor, D. Pydeski, A. Schmidt, D. Triggs, A. Vernick, and P. Walitsky; and Council liaison T. Chase (arrived 7:10 PM.) Absent: J. Clyde (death in the family).

Chair W. Andrews reported three letters received: from ANJEC, asking for comments on DEP's proposed relaxing of septic system regulations in the Highlands, and from RPM, concerning freshwater wetlands approval for a new project on School Ave; and a flood hazard area permit for dredging ponds in Colonial Park. He commented on the recently received Franklin Township annual water quality report, incorporating analytical results from providers NJ American Water, New Brunswick Water System and South Brunswick as well as Franklin's independent analyses.

Director of Planning Mark Healey came to the table, for discussion of the stream corridor protection ordinance and the draft revised ERI. A. Schmidt said he had provided input on the stream corridor ordinance to Mark Healey and T. Chase, and was satisfied with the result. The draft ERI was discussed briefly; many members wanted hard copies for study. Mark will supply copies to those wanted a copy.

A. Schmidt offered a number of minor corrections to the minutes of the June 20 meeting. With these, the minutes were approved.

Web site: nothing new.

Plans review: eight, including for Kings Row Homes on Cedar Grove Lane (34 units on 7.3 acres, as clusters of 3-5 attached town houses).

Sustainable Jersey: T. Chase described the recent Green Team meeting with Takeena Deas of Sustainable Somerset, focusing on contacting township businesses to encourage them to participate in Sustainable Somerset's Green Challenge. We might start with businesses that have installed solar cells. ... A. Vernick reported receiving notice of Sustainable Jersey's comments on our submitted application (at least 12 items to be addressed).

T. Chase discussed the proposed natural gas pipeline compressor in southern Franklin. The Council is endeavoring to have Williams (the pipeline company) come in for a presentation and questions at a special Council meeting. A Clean Air hearing, focusing on emissions from compressor stations, is also planned. Groups in opposition have been formed in Franklin and South Brunswick. C. MacIvor described childhood experience with a pipeline explosion.

P. Walitsky spoke about efforts by sustainability organization Green Seal (of which he is the treasurer) to get hotels certified for sustainability. He is to meet with Councilwoman Sherman and hotel representatives on Sept. 1.

T. Chase reported that township Social Services' summer child care program at 935 Hamilton St. has received a donated rain barrel (see minutes of 6/6).

W. Andrews is trying to set up a deer seminar in October or November.

In connection with the water quality report just sent out to users of township water, and the ANJEC letter about DEP's proposed relaxation of septic regulation in the Highlands, T. Chase described the sources of the township's water supply.

D. Pydeski reported that she has talked with a prospective member for the vacancy on the Commission, a person whom W. Andrews knows. He will talk to this person and invite him to the next EC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.