

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
OCTOBER 16, 2017
MEETING MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 7:05 P.M.

ATTENDEES: Present: Walter Andrew (Chairman), David Triggs, Mary Lauko, Jenny-Ann Kershner, John Clyde and Arnold Schmidt (who had to leave the meeting early). Absent: Council Liaison Ted Chase (vacation), Cecile MacIvor, Dianne Pydeski (previous commitment) and Paul Walitsky.

PUBLIC: Bill Bowman (The Franklin Reporter and Advocate)

MEETING MINUTES

David Triggs motioned to accept the September 18th meeting minutes without change and John Clyde seconded. All were in favor so the motion passed.

CHAIR REPORT:

The Chair is pleased to announce that Jenny-Ann Kershner was appointed by the Township Council to the Commission as a regular member, replacing the late Arnold Vernick.

WEBSITE:

Arnold Schmidt came to the meeting but had to leave early. He provided John Clyde with speaking points regarding the website which is still outdated. The May 15th and June 5th 2017 meeting minutes are missing. All of the 2016 meeting minutes are missing and some of the 2015 meeting minutes need to be posted. The 2016 Annual Report is available. The last posting for the "Goals and Objectives" was in 2015. Chairman Andrew requested that new members Mary Lauko and Jenny-Ann Kershner submit their bios.

PLANS REVIEW:

There were no site plans to review.

SUSTAINABLE NEW JERSEY:

The Township is looking into applying for a grant in 2018 to install an electric car charger at the municipal complex. Once completed, the charger might help to gain points toward the Township's Sustainable New Jersey ranking..

COMMUNITY GARDENS:

The update was tabled due to Ted Chase's absence.

OLD BUSINESS:

- *Local Action to Support Paris Accord Resolution:* Chairman Andrew will draft a letter to Mayor Kramer in support of the accord.
- *Stream Cleanup Events:* Mary Lauko stated that there were recent stream cleanups in Keyport and New Brunswick. There may have been a recent cleanup along the D & R Canal, which was coordinated by Rutgers students, in preparation for the annual Canal Fest Festival. John Clyde will coordinate the spring cleanup either on April 14th

or the 21st. He is requesting that members search for a suitable location with litter, an area that is part of a watershed and is safe from vehicular traffic with adequate parking. Jenny-Ann Kershner will ask the Stony Brook-Millstone Science Team for a recommended location.

- *Environmental Commission Resolution Against the Compressor Station/EIS*: The Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be available in November for review.
- *Stony Brook-Millstone Dams*: Jenny-Ann Kershner reported that the Blackwells Mills Watershed is conducting a study to determine how the removal of the dam will affect river flow and area flooding.
- *Fall Deer Seminar*: Mary Lauko sent the Commission members a video on hunting deer from tree stands. One Commission member felt that the video was skewed toward the hunter's perspective. Jenny-Ann Kershner will try to find a speaker for a fall public seminar about how to landscape with deer-resistant plants.
- *Clean Communities Grant 2017*: Mary Lauko submitted the guidelines for administering the Clean Communities Grant to the Township Council. She also submitted questions on how the grant is being managed, but has not received an answer. John Clyde would like to propose to the Township Council that Earth Day week be designated in Franklin Township as "Litter Pickup Week." We should look for local sponsors, such as Roto Clip, to help fund litter cleanups. John will meet with the Township Manager in the coming weeks to present his proposal.
- *Electric Vehicle Charging Station*: Refer to Sustainable New Jersey.
- *Environmental Commission Vacancy*: All vacancies are now filled.

NEW BUSINESS:

Green Infrastructure: This was tabled due to Councilman Chase's absence.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

There was no public discussion.

NEXT MEETING:

The meeting ended approximately 8:20 P.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 6th at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by: David Triggs, Member