

## **Minutes of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission meeting Nov. 21, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM, and the Sunshine Law notice read. The roll was called. Present: W. Andrews, J. Clyde, C. MacIvor, D. Pydeski, A. Schmidt, D. Triggs, P. Walitsky. Absent: A. Vernick (medical issues).

W. Andrews will ask for a second key to the Environmental Commission mailbox, for P. Walitsky (vice chair), in case he is again unexpectedly absent, as at the Nov. 7 meeting. He has a budget request for the community gardens (specifically, fencing for Common Ground); T. Chase will take this to whoever in the township will supervise this work.

The minutes of Nov. 7 were approved, with one addition; the minutes of Oct. 17 were approved without change.

There was nothing new on the Commission web site.

Plans: there were two which had been in the box for the Nov. 7 meeting; one has now been heard by the Planning Board, and prior comments by the Commission were responded to.

Sustainable Jersey: T. Chase reported on the township's receiving Silver certification at the League of Municipalities meeting, which will be described in a front-page article in the township newsletter, and on expected new actions with regard to green infrastructure. He also reported on the proposal for a township-sponsored farmers' market, put forward by the Agricultural Advisory Committee and discussed by the Open Space Committee. An *ad hoc* township committee has proposed locating the market on township-owned land at DeMott Lane and Amwell Road, but others favor locating it in the Hamilton St. corridor, where it would be more accessible to low-income residents.

New business: W. Andrews will work on a report on EC accomplishments during 2016. The Commission planned the 2017 meeting schedule, which was approved and will be submitted to the township clerk for posting and transmission to the news media. A seminar on deer control is unlikely for this fall because of non-response from the NJ Division of Fish and Game. The Commission discussed whether to respond to a group which wishes to speak on non-lethal deer control methods, and decided not to, as this group has been directed to the Open Space Committee (which sets rules for deer control), but has not been able to reach agreement with that committee on speaking parameters. T. Chase has excess copies of the flyers on the River Friendly Resident Program of Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association.

The Environmental Resource Inventory revised by Mark Healey was approved unanimously.

P. Walitsky reported on the Franklin High School's replacement of 110 watt metal halide light bulbs with 78 watt LEDs, stimulated by a report by students.

J. Clyde thanked everyone who was present at the naming of the trail at Griggstown Grasslands for his late son, which was constructed by him.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.