

Minutes of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission meeting December 5, 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, A. Schmidt, A. Vernick, and P. Walitsky. Absent: J. Clyde, D. Pydeski, D. Triggs. Council liaison T. Chase arrived at 7:10 PM.

Chair's report: he is submitting the quarterly attendance report to the township clerk, and the 2017 meeting schedule. One letter of notification that a letter of interpretation of wetlands is being requested, concerning block 5.02 lots 24 and 97 [not far from the proposed compressor station].

The minutes of Nov. 21 were corrected by A. Schmidt, and passed as corrected.

Website: members' dates of expiration of terms should be updated after reappointments are made. It was questioned whether approved minutes of EC meetings are being posted, and if so for how long.

One site plan was reviewed, Central Jersey College Prep charter school's proposed takeover of the Exxon building on Mettlers Lane. It was not clear what variance was being sought.

T. Chase reported on attending a Sustainable Jersey update at the League of Municipalities meeting. He delivered the CDBG materials to Tiffany Delaney, township special projects coordinator, for implementation.

Public discussion: Linda Thompson and others of the Citizens Advisory Committee presented materials concerning the proposed Williams – Transco compressor station on the Trap Rock Quarry property at the south end of the township. Discussion ensued, explaining the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) process. She asked that the Environmental Commission work with the advisory committee. A. Schmidt suggested that they prepare a statement addressed to FERC which the Environmental Commission might adopt and send.

New business update: W. Andrews is still working on the 2016 accomplishments report. He will resubmit the 2017 schedule, with the time of meetings (7 PM) included. The final draft of the Environmental Resource Inventory has been approved; the remaining step is adoption by the Planning Board as a Master Plan element. W. Andrews will contact NJ Fish & Game personnel for a seminar on deer control in the spring. He will e-mail APLN concerning their desire to address the Commission on non-lethal deer control, directing them to the Open Space Committee, as indicated in the revised minutes. T. Chase explained River-friendly programs of Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, for businesses, golf courses, etc. as well as residents. He has remaining flyers about the programs, for distribution at the Commission's next event.

W. Andrews will contact township manager Bob Vornlocker for a second key to the Commission mailbox, to be held by vice chair P. Walitsky.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.