

Franklin Township Environmental Commission meeting Minutes for Nov. 6, 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. Kershner, M. Lauko, D. Pydeski, A. Schmidt, D. Triggs, P. Walitsky, and Council liaison T. Chase. Absent: J. Clyde, C. MacIvor.

Chair's report: he has sent all 2017 agendas and minutes, and all but two from 2016, to Justin Heyman for posting on the Commission page; he is still checking 2015 minutes. Also to be posted are 2015 and 2016 Goals and Objectives. J. Kershner sent a revised, shorter biography, to be sent to Ann Marie McCarthy.

The minutes of the October 16 meeting were accepted, with corrections by M. Lauko.

Nothing new from the web site.

One plan was reviewed, for an Indian temple on Elizabeth Ave. near Amwell Rd. The Commission wonders why they propose a septic field rather than connecting to the sewer system, and wonders where the existing well is (not found on the plan).

Sustainable Jersey: the Green Team should become active for 2018 recertification.

No news on Community Gardens. It was suggested that since the Commission now has no regular connection to the gardens, this need not be a regular agenda item.

Commission members were asked to submit possible local actions to support the Paris Accords on climate change, such as expediting permits for solar cell installation, a way for parked police cars to flash lights without continuous idling, etc. T. Chase reported that Bob Vornlocker proposes to put into the 2018 township budget a charging station for electric vehicles, and five electric vehicles for Construction Code inspectors. P. Walitsky reported that Duke Farms' charging station charges 45¢ for the first 3 hrs of charging, \$5.00 thereafter. Will the township allow residents to charge?

An e-mail from John Clyde stated that the spring stream clean-up is set for April 14; but where? Mile Run, especially above Hamilton St., remains a possibility if access from the New Brunswick side can be arranged. J. Kershner will work on publicity.

T. Chase reported on what's happening in opposition to the proposed 206 compressor.

Nothing new on the Blackwells Mills dam on the Millstone.

Deer seminar, spring 2018: W. Andrews made contact with the NJ Dept. of Agriculture; J. Kershner will get people from Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association for a panel.

The plaques for the 2017 Environmental Stewardship awards are ready, and were shown. They will be awarded at the Nov. 28 Council meeting.

Clean Communities Grant 2017: M. Lauko has asked questions, received some answers, but not the annual report. T. Chase is to ask Bob Vornlocker about this. Can the grant support a public relations campaign?

Green infrastructure: a report from the Rutgers Water Resources program suggested pervious pavement for parking lots at Pine Grove and McAfee schools and the East Franklin Firehouse lot. How can we carry through on this? T. Chase reported on the township receiving a grant to retrofit two detention basins (one on Laird Terrace) to retain, purify and infiltrate water better.

ANJEC membership: the new members should be included, receive ANJEC membership when the township pays for the Commission's annual membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM.