

Minutes of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission meeting

Nov. 20, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM, and the Sunshine Law Notice read. The roll was called. Present were: W. Andrews, J. Clyde, J. Kershner, D. Pydeski, A. Schmidt, D. Triggs, and P. Walitsky; and Council liaison T. Chase. Absent: M. Lauko, C. MacIvor.

Chair's report: the Environmental Stewardship awards will be given out at the Nov. 28 Council meeting. The recipients have been notified, and will be there.

The deadline for the winter newsletter has passed – notification had been addressed to Arnold Vernick. The new contact appears to be Damiante Chivukula.

The minutes of the Nov. 6 meeting were approved.

The website has the 2017 minutes, but (as of this date) some of the 2016, 2015 and 2014 minutes were missing. J. Kershner's biography is up, but not M. Lauko's. Goals and Objectives for 2015 are up, but not for 2016 or 2017. A. Schmidt is no longer able to log in to see if there are questions addressed to the EC.

Plans review: the same plan reviewed at the previous meeting; EC questions were not answered. New material concerned parking.

Community Gardens will be taken off the ongoing agenda, since the EC is no longer involved. T. Chase can supply information if he receives it.

Sustainable Jersey: A. Schmidt brought up a notification he had received concerning an application for state grants for planning for a community microgrid.

Old business: local actions to support the Paris Accords: W. Andrews has yet to send on those suggested at the Nov. 6 meeting.

J. Clyde will look at possible locations for the April 14 stream clean-up, focusing on Mile Run, perhaps below the confluence of DeRussey's Brook.

River-friendly information: Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association (SBMWA) is still working on removal of the Blackwells Mills Dam; no recent news. J. Kershner would like to work with the newsletter editor on an article on what residents can do to be river-friendly. There was discussion of natural blockages of the Millstone River, which might also prevent passage of anadromous fish. D&R Canal State Park would be the responsible party to clear blockages, does not have funds.

Deer seminar: we should pick a date, in April or May. J. Kershner can line up a panel through SBMWA; W. Andrews hopes to get a speaker from NJ Dept. of Agriculture.

The calendar of meetings in 2018 must be adopted at the next meeting.

New Business: the Shade Tree Commission would like to update the Environmental Commission Landscape Guidelines for tree planting (most recent version 2003, originally prepared ≈1995). D. Pydeski brought up Somerset County Parks Commission' plans for a spray park at Colonial Park (RFP has been published). How much water will be used, and from what source? Typical use for such is 70 gallons/min.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.