

## Minutes of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission meeting March 19, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM, and the Sunshine Law Notice read.

The roll was called:

**Present were:** W. Andrews, J. Kershner, M. Lauko, C. MacIvor, A. Schmidt, D. Triggs (arrived 7:08), and P. Walitsky; and Council liaison T. Chase. **Absent:** J. Clyde, D. Pydeski.

**Chair's Report:** one notification of application for a wetlands determination was received.

The minutes of the meeting of March 5 were approved.

Nothing new at the website. Some 2015 minutes are still to be posted.

There were no plans for review, and no report on Sustainable Jersey.

A. Schmidt reported that the Shade Tree Commission plans to update the list of acceptable trees for developments prepared by the Environmental Commission some years ago, and moved that the EC formally support this action. The resolution was approved unanimously. Members also suggested including information about water-absorbing shrubbery to aid storm resiliency.

The April 14 stream clean-up will be publicized in the spring Franklin Times, expected to appear around April 1. Flyers are available to publicize the event, and Boy Scout troops are being recruited to participate.

J. Kershner reported that the plan to remove the Blackwells Mills Dam is on track, NJ DEP and U.S. Fish & Wildlife having approved and the US Geological Survey official opposing the plan because of its effect on the gauging station having moved to another job; Princeton Hydro has been hired to assess effects of the dam removal. J. Kershner also reported upcoming activities at Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association (SBMWA), including a presentation on Sunday March 25 (3-5 PM) concerning American shad in the Raritan, Delaware, and potentially the Millstone River.

T. Chase reported that Princeton Hydro has been hired by Eastern Environmental Law Clinic (the firm representing opponents of the 206 compressor) to assess the draft Environmental Impact Statement, with Franklin Township contributing money towards this employment. The draft EIS is expected any day. [It was released March 23.]

M. Lauko has been looking into whether the township was required to file a report on how it spent its Clean Communities grant, and sought to obtain the report, but was denied; she is no longer asking for it. J. Kershner has written to township manager Vornlocker requesting a donation from this grant to Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association for materials (plastic bags, gloves, T-shirts) for the clean-up. A. Schmidt suggested that we seek in-kind donations (trash bags, gloves) from DPW. [It appears that DPW provides these, SBMWA has provided T-shirts, snacks and water.]

There was discussion of Green Infrastructure – what is it, how does the township assure it in developments. The Princeton ordinance requiring stormwater management for new development or redevelopment on parcels as small as ¼ acre, was discussed. J. Kershner suggested that the EC could put together a brochure on stormwater management practices for homeowners and builders.

It was noted that the Franklin Township Youth Council Environmental Committee sponsored an event for students in grades K-4 on March 17, under the heading Biotopia.

It was suggested that flyers advertising the deer seminar be posted around town shortly before its date, and be sent to everyone who had a permit to hunt on township open space in 2017-

J. Kershner reported that deer density is up to 200/sq. mile in some locations in New Jersey. She will contact the township (Justin Heyman) regarding posting the stream clean-up and the deer seminar on the township web site.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.