

## Minutes of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission meeting, March 5, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM, and the Sunshine Law Notice read.

The roll was called.

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

**Chair's report:** one notice was received, of a wetlands permit. The Commission should increase its contact with ANJEC, which has decreased since Arnold Vernick left the Commission.

The minutes of Feb. 5 were approved, with J. Clyde abstaining.

**Web site:** nothing new. W. Andrews wants to be sure that all minutes of 2016 meetings are posted before going back to 2015, where some but not all minutes have been posted.

**Plans:** one, for expansion of Francis Parker Memorial Home, Dellwood Ave. Variances for height and impervious surface are requested. The site drains into a detention basin on a neighboring lot, which apparently will be expanded.

**Sustainable Jersey, etc.:** T. Chase reported on 1) a meeting of the Green Team, which will work toward recertification with Sustainable Jersey at the Silver level this year, and will work towards the Gold Star in energy; 2) replacement of bulbs in street lights with LEDs: this was discussed in the Public Works Committee. PSE&G is applying to the BPU for a special tariff to subsidize this replacement; the township will replace its highest-wattage bulbs (and heads) with LEDs when this subsidy becomes available. 3) a report on impact of deer and invasive species on central NJ forests, presented at the Land Rally March 2. The speaker, Jay Kelly of Raritan Valley College, will be addressing us at the May 21 meeting.

J. Clyde reported on plans for clean-up of Mile Run below DeRussey's Brook, May 14. Jenny Kershner has written to Bob Vornlocker requesting some financial support for this from the Clean Communities grant.

The 206 Compressor station: T. Chase reported that Eastern Environmental Law Clinic, which is representing opponents of the compressor, has hired Princeton Hydro to conduct an environmental review.

Dams on the Millstone to be removed by Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association: T. Chase was told by J. Kershner that SBMWA has found a way around objections by the U.S. Geological Survey to removal of the Blackwells Mills Dam by their gauging station.

Deer seminar – see above. Clean Communities grant – waiting for report by M. Lauko. Green Infrastructure as a Sustainable Jersey action, which our rain garden at Griggstown Grasslands and pervious pavement at Middlebush Park support. Franklin Times with our articles should appear soon.

W. Andrews asked, what are 'ecological parks'? T. Chase cited township open space, especially Negri-Nepote and Griggstown Grasslands as managed to maintain grasslands, the most threatened type of environment in New Jersey. [I should also have included the field along South Middlebush Rd north of Cortelyou Lane, which is being maintained similarly by the state.]

Meeting closed at 8:20 pm.