

Minutes of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission meeting April 2, 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, C. MacIvor, D. Pydeski, A. Schmidt, D. Triggs. Absent: J. Kershner (work meeting), M. Lauko (work travel), P. Walitski (trip).

Chair's report: several letters concerning wetlands permits and flood hazard areas were received.

One plan was reviewed. It would involve a considerable increase in impervious surface, though still under the 25% maximum for its zone. The Commission suggested using pervious pavement.

There was discussion of loss of ash trees, and of trees for sale by the Shade Tree Commission.

J. Clyde announced that this will be his last year running the spring clean-up.

The minutes of the March 19 meeting were approved. It will soon be time to plan a rain barrel seminar. We still have 11 barrels in storage.

Nothing new at the web site, or concerning Sustainable Jersey. T. Chase described a Complete Streets resolution, which he should be writing.

Besides our stream clean-up, of Mile Run below DeRussey's Brook (staging area: Pine Grove School parking lot, 4-14-18, (9:30-12:00)), Lower Raritan Watershed Alliance will run a clean-up of Mile Run from the New Brunswick side on May 19.

T. Chase reported briefly on the talks on shad in the Raritan, Millstone and Delaware at SBMWA.

Jodi Powell of NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife expressed interest in attending the EC's deer seminar on 5-21-18 and the Open Space Committee's discussion of deer control.

A. Schmidt made a suggestion for Environmental Stewardship awards for 2018.

It is expected that the public – especially township employees – will be able to use the township's charging stations for electric vehicles when installed. There are federal, state and PSE&G incentives for buying an electric car. M. Lauko finds hers so quiet that it is uninteresting.

The township newsletter, Franklin Times, is expected to appear any day now, with articles on the clean-up by J. Clyde and on the deer seminar by J. Kershner.

A. Schmidt, having been to a paper shredding event in Hillsborough with hundreds of cars waiting, suggested that Franklin's (expected in July) would be better held at the high school, where there would be more space for cars to wait and less competition for the space than at the municipal building, where waiting cars impede users of the library, senior center, etc.

A member of the public inquired about solar cells on public facilities. Franklin has solar cells on the Municipal Building, and PSE&G has them on utility poles.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.