

Minutes of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission meeting April 16, 2018

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

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

Chair's Report: How can the Commission play up Earth Day, beyond the stream clean-up, in the future (too late for this year)? Play up reusable water bottles? Reusable grocery bags? Can we approach ShopRite and Stop & Shop for a donation of bags, to be distributed (at Franklin Day?) J. Kershner will ask Stop & Shop.

One wetlands delineation request was received, and a notice from PSE&G which seems in Franklin to be limited to tree-cutting/trimming on the Griggstown Causeway (T. Chase mentioned the Millstone Valley Preservation Coalition's plans for new planting there and along the Blackwells Mills causeway).

The minutes of the April 2 meeting were approved unanimously.

The township web site did publicize the clean-up well – spotlighted, article carried, call for volunteers. The township newsletter seems not to have come out yet.

There were no plans for review.

Sustainable Jersey: T. Chase described Complete Streets, leading to a discussion of bicycle lanes and the proposed North-South trail.

The stream clean-up attracted 40-50 people [actually 51], enabling four sites to be cleaned up: around Pine Grove School (small children cleaning up), along DeRussey's Brook. Mile Run at SS Peter & Paul Church, Mile Run at Easton Ave. [A total of 2,490 lbs. of trash was collected, J. Kershner reports.] DPW provided gloves and garbage bags, but not drinking water; J. & M. Clyde purchased water for the volunteers. Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association sent an AmeriCorps volunteer [name?] to coordinate and provided T-shirts.

A. Schmidt is reviewing the noise section of the 206 compressor DEIS.

The report from Princeton Hydro on the Blackwells Mills dam is under review; it is expected that the dam can be removed in summer 2019. Shad have been reported in the Millstone River at Weston.

The Commission voted formally and unanimously to request a copy of the township's most recent application for a Clean Communities grant, and of whatever report is submitted to the granting authority on how the grant was used.

W. Andrews suggested that the Commission learn more about what the Thomas Edison EnergySmart School, 150 Pierce St., does in being energy smart.

T. Chase reported that he spoke to township clerk Ann Marie McCarthy concerning moving the document shredding day to the Franklin High School parking lot, and she agreed to ask the high school and the county if this can be done.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.