

## Minutes of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission meeting June 18, 2018

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

**Present were:** W. Andrews, M. Lauko, C. MacIvor, D. Pydeski, A. Schmidt, D. Triggs, P. Walitsky, and Council liaison T. Chase.

**Absent:** J. Clyde, J. Kershner (work meeting).

The minutes of the June 4 meeting were approved. The only item of correspondence was notification of the township's application for a flood hazard area permit for the driveway from Weston Canal Rd. to the projected recreation fields behind the Summerfields development.

Oguz Yildiz, Maya Ghosh, Rajsri Govindaraju and Jignisha Patel of Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School were welcomed to present their school's 'energy smart' programs. Ms. Ghosh described how their K-8 curriculum includes material on recycling, wind energy, hydro energy and solar energy, 80 minutes each week for each grade. Next year they will include discussion of biomass. The school currently extends through 9<sup>th</sup> grade, is expanding to include a full high school. Ms. Govindaraju described the projected high school curriculum, which will include courses taught by Raritan Valley Community College, yielding an A.S. in environmental science from RVCC along with the diploma from TESCS. Students are committed to community involvement, and 12th grade students will carry out research projects on local environmental problems. Partnership with local environmental organizations will be stressed. Topics include water quality, campus sustainability, forest ecology and coastal ecology. Throughout the curriculum the use of paper is minimized, students receive and study materials on computers. Ms. Patel reported that the school has registered with Sustainable Jersey for Schools, hopes to apply for certification in 2019. They received a Sustainable Jersey grant of \$2000 to construct raised beds for a school garden; otherwise they are limited in physical implementation because they do not own their building. Other Sustainable Jersey(SJ) actions they are doing or expect to carry out include accessible communication, professional development of staff and board toward green initiatives, Green Cleaning training for staff and education for students, asthma-friendly school, classroom clean-up, anti-idling education and enforcement, a student Green Team, and radon testing of the building. Education for sustainability is carried out in the Arts curriculum in grades 4-12.

**Web site:** the slides from the deer control seminar are not yet up on the township web site; one citizen has already requested them.

Three plans were reviewed. The developer of warehouses at 495 Weston Canal Rd says their roofs will be 'solar ready', connections installed for any future solar cells.

T. Chase reported attending a Sustainable Jersey/NJTPA session on electric vehicles readiness for municipalities. He described the different levels of charging stations. M. Lauko, who has an electric car, reported that there is a fast charging station behind the former Holiday Inn on Davidson Ave. She does not know of any others in Franklin Township.

Re: the 206 compressor: citizens are asked to write to the NJDEP, asking that the DEP deny necessary permits. The deadline is June 22, the DEP has one year from the date of filing to deny permits, otherwise FERC will deem them approved.

The new Claremont Ave. School, which is LEED Gold-certified, was suggested as a possible recipient of the Environmental Stewardship award to an organization. T. Chase will ask Ed Potosnak for details of the environmental/sustainable features.

M. Lauko will pursue having a NJ American Water hydration truck at Franklin Day, contacting Alice Osipowitz.

The suggestion that future hazardous waste disposal and shredding operations be transferred to Franklin High School parking lot, to decrease on-street traffic backup and effects on the Farmers' Market, has been transmitted to the manager.

Concern about one-use plastics was expressed – there are local programs, either to ban plastic bags or to charge for them, and proposed legislation in the legislature. [You may have received an e-mail from ANJEC concerning a bill they think is insufficient.]

The Commission will contact Tara Kenyon for a date to have a table publicizing its activities at the Farmers' Market, as well as a table under the township tent at Franklin Day.

J. Kershner is setting up a Build a Rain Barrel workshop with the Watershed Institute's Watershed Ambassador for the Millstone watershed.

T. Chase brought up asking the township manager to investigate cost estimates and feasibility for fencing open space against deer and/or deer population reduction by professional hunters. C. MacIvor moved to have the manager get cost estimates for a) fencing the DeMott Lane frontage of that township open space or b) erecting a fence all the way around that open space, to allow understory regeneration. This was approved 5 to 1. D. Triggs moved to have the manager investigate the cost and feasibility of hiring professional hunters for deer control. This was approved 6 – 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM.