

Minutes of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission October 1, 2018

I. Sunshine Law was read, called to order at 7:05 PM.

II. Roll Call Dianne Pydeski, David Triggs, John Clyde, Paul Walitsky, Mary Lauko, Walter Andrews, Cecile Macivor (absent, notified commission: Ted Chase, Arnold Schmidt)

III. Chair Report Councilman Vassanella told Walter that council members would like to attend any commission events in order to show support. He would like the commission to get Boy Scouts involved.

IV. Minutes David moved to approve, Cecile second. All agreed to approve.

V. Website Walter checked recently. Walter goes on web site weekly, sends agenda for posting 5 days ahead of meetings. Rule is to post 3 days in advance. Walter also sends approved minutes in a timely manner so they can be posted once approved by the commission.

VI. Plans Review One plan to review. Somerset Hotel on corner of Davidson Ave and Easton Ave. It was previously Townplace Suites Marriott. The building is 6 stories high. Plan was previously submitted for EC review. EC has no additional comments.

VII. Sustainable Jersey The township is not applying for a higher level. Ted will probably seek new information starting in January, for next year's submission.

VIII. Old Business Update

a. ~~Build a Rain Barrel workshop, 9/8/18~~

b. Stream cleanup events of interest in the watershed – Not a cleanup, but Delaware and Raritan Canal festival will be on Saturday, October 13. It is sponsored by the Franklin Township Food Bank.

c. River-friendly information. Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed dams
Ted and Jenny Ann reported that more and more shad are showing up in the area. Removal of Blackwells Mills dam upstream is under study.

d. 2018 Environmental Stewardship Awards. Claremont School. The architect is available Oct. 15 to give EC a presentation. They are Gold LEED. The school will use half the electricity and half the water of a building with no LEED status. We propose that the EC visit the school. EC confirms that we would like to see the presentation on Oct. 15.

e. Franklin Day, 9-22-18 (12-5pm) The weather was very nice.

- 500 LED bulbs were handed out. Special thanks to Carl Hauck and the township Department of Public Works for picking up the light bulbs by truck and delivering

them to the township tent, affording efficient distribution of the light bulbs to the public.

- Some literature was handed out for electric vehicles (EVs) at the commission table. Patrick Scaglione freeholder visited the EV which was set up in a separate area. He communicated that Somerset County is buying 5 EVs. Freeholders (also present was Freeholder Brian Levine) think they should coordinate with townships regarding future purchases of EVs and placement of charging stations. The county bought the cars from a dealer. In the future, if EV purchases can be coordinated, cars may be purchased directly from the manufacturer at a discount.
- The inflatables drew more power than expected, so the EV could not power them. The usual generators were used to power the inflatables.
- At future Franklin festivals, think about how to include food trucks and vendors that do not use gas generators. An ice cream truck was mentioned, Kona Ice – not gas power. Start planning for festival 2019 about 6 months in advance. NJ American Water Puddle Truck can be reserved – was not present at the festival this year. If water can be brought by truck to future events, the EC could try to get funds for reusable water bottles to be given away at the event. Budget fiscal year is July to July. Ask Alice for provider of water bottles, may need to go out for bid.

f. Electric vehicles and charging station for Franklin Township, update

The township purchased 5 Chevy Bolts; 3 charging stations will be placed by the township animal shelter. Charging stations will be used by town vehicles at night, but will be available to the public during the day.

g. One use plastics – There is a new bill in the state legislature banning plastic bags. This bill is more strict than the previous version which was vetoed by the governor, would be the toughest in the country other than California.

h. Franklin Times articles for Fall issue – think about what should go in Winter issue.

- Spring stream cleanup – first step is to scout locations and set a date. John will not be organizing. Need a lead. Need better recruiting than previous years.
- Council members to look for possible cleanup locations. One possibility is Davidson Ave and Worlds Fair Drive corner, but should be near a stream. Cleanup location needs adequate parking, area where DPW can bring in a truck and pick up the trash without interfering with auto traffic.
- 2018 cleanup: Councilman Vassanella chose the area to pick up trash, near Franklin Blvd. Then we went to Pine Grove. Parked at church.
- Recruiting:
 - (1) Reach out to Boy Scouts.
 - (2) Need Board of Ed contact. Once we get a date, we can reach out. Constance Coriell– energy efficiency coordinator, at Board of Ed. High school environmental club – have not been involved.
 - (3) Charter school Thomas Edison, would probably like to be involved.
 - (4) Go to PTO presidents. They have a rep who could go to schools once the date and place is announced.
- Bigger companies – suggest meeting with shareholders because some like to help out in the community. Example: Philips lighting where Merck was.

Speak to Bob Vornlocker, Vincent Dominach about township business organizations to inquire about which companies may have community outreach programs that could be interested in helping with stream cleanup.

- EC should send a formal letter of thanks when organizations help us out.

i. Farmers Market Information Table, date – no more events this year. This year's season was an overall success.

Franklin compressor – Paul Walitsky reported - some permits were not approved. One resident whose permission was required did not give permission.

IX. New Business

a. Mark Nichols, SSP Architect, has been extended an invitation to present on the Clairmont School LEED Gold Certification. Looking forward to presentation on Oct. 15. AV system expected to work.

b. Boy Scouts interest in EC events. – stream cleanup

(c) Proposed new topic for the agenda: Does ERI have to be updated again?

X. Public Discussion – none

XI. Adjourn – 7:50 PM Dave moved to adjourn, Paul second.

