

Minutes of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission meeting April 1, 2019

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

The roll was called:

Present were: W. Andrews, S. Jaracz, J. Johnson, D. Pydeski, A. Schmidt, D. Triggs and P. Walitsky; and Council liaison T. Chase. Absent: C. MacIvor (sick?)

Chair's report: he sent a letter to John Clyde's family about naming the stream clean-up for him; so far it hasn't been returned, so he hopes it reached them. Franklin Day 2019 will be Sept. 27.

The minutes of March 18 were approved without changes.

Website: W. Andrews is waiting for *all* the biography updates before submitting them for posting. T. Chase sent an update on the organizer of the Pine Grove School community garden to Justin Heyman. There is not at present a way to address questions to the EC by e-mail. A. Schmidt found the gmail address formerly used. W. Andrews could not find the supposedly posted May 2018 deer seminar.

Plans: one. Already reviewed, of the Green Care dementia facility, with an updated environmental report. The EC suggests that when a plan is sent to the EC for a second or subsequent review, a copy of our first comments also be sent. (In this case, P. Walitsky had the prior comments on his phone.)

Sustainable Jersey: T. Chase has posted many supporting documents to our application on the Sustainable Jersey web site, and has scheduled a Green Team meeting for April 11. He and S. Jaracz attended a meeting of south county Green Teams in Manville on March 28.

Old business: Boy Scouts keep signing up for the stream clean-up, which was also publicized through the school system via Ed Potosnak and Superintendent Ravelly. Information about last year's clean-up was erroneously posted on the township web site, but was quickly corrected. S. Jaracz visited Mile Run and saw lots of waste, including ≈30 tires, on the New Brunswick side. He is distributing fliers in Spanish.

Compressor Station: Barbara Cartwright has compiled an exhaustive list of objections to the compressor, which she has asked Manager Vornlocker to sign and send to the relevant DEP personnel.

Electric vehicles: the need for a large sign restricting the parking spaces for the charging stations to vehicles using them to charge was reiterated. There should be an ordinance providing for a fine for other vehicles occupying the spaces.

At this point A. Schmidt moved to open the meeting to public comment; the motion passed. Lavonne Heydel spoke about the University Outing Club's desire to commemorate John Clyde, a longtime member, by planting a tree, preferably somewhere near the municipal building. The club would pay for the plaque attached; she wants to know how much it would cost, but has received no response to her inquiry to the mayor and township manager. EC members responded that the cost would depend on the material, size and inscription on the plaque. T. Chase will ask for Council discussion on where to plant the tree (and how big a tree).

A. Schmidt has written a statement on the 206 compressor. He would like to send this to the DEP, identifying himself as a member of the Environmental Commission. J. Johnson moved that it be sent from the entire Commission. This passed, D. Triggs abstaining because he is a DEP employee.

J. Johnson suggested investigating whether the township could offer a reusable bag to each house in the township, to use instead of one-use plastic bags, and perhaps get local stores to offer an incentive to use the bag. D. Triggs suggested that this could be funded through a recycling grant or even through the EC budget.

S. Jaracz noted that eight electric cars and one electric motorcycle are signed up for the April 23 show, plus three township vehicles. It was suggested that spaces be marked off on the afternoon of the show to reserve them for the electric vehicles, so that they could all be grouped together. Jaracz is also contacting vendors of EV-associated equipment, such as charging equipment, and perhaps electricians experienced in installing them.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.