

## **Minutes of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission meeting April 15, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM, and the Sunshine Law Notice read. The roll was called. Present were: W. Andrews, J. Johnson, S. Jaracz (arrived 7:10), C. MacIvor, D. Pydeski, A. Schmidt, D. Triggs, and P. Walitsky; and Council liaison T. Chase.

Chair's report: he sent a letter to John Clyde's family, notifying them of the naming of the stream clean-up for him; he will bring the text to the next meeting. One flood hazard letter was received.

The minutes of April 1 were approved without change.

Web site: W. Andrews has the three remaining biographies for posting/updating, must send them to Justin Heyman before he leaves. The 2017 and 2018 Annual Reports must also be posted. Establishing a gmail address for townspeople to query the EC was discussed. J. Johnson will prepare a proposal for this.

Two site plans were reviewed (a mosque on Churchill Ave., exceeds impervious surface limit; the EC asks for porous pavement); additional warehouse space on Franklin Square Blvd, off Davidson (added impervious surface, with an underground detention basin).

W. Andrews suggested that the EC keep in touch with the Willow School (concerning further LEED additions).

Sustainable Jersey: T. Chase reported on Green Team activity.

W. Andrews is in discussion with the Watershed Institute for a rain barrel workshop, in September.

Boy Scouts 'green' activity: some were at the Mile Run clean-up, with Councilman Vassanella. Stan Jaracz reported on the clean-up. There were an estimated 150 volunteers (from New Brunswick and further afield, as well as from Franklin). A cache of  $\approx 100$  tires (solid, from fork lifts) was difficult to transport upslope to where New Brunswick DPW could take them away. No estimate of the weight of material collected was available, as it far exceeded the usual practice of weighing bag by bag.

Electric vehicles: Bob Vornlocker has said the township will buy five more this year, replacing existing gasoline-powered vehicles [the order is on the consent agenda for the April 23 Council meeting]. T. Chase talked to the overseer (above the local manager) of a hotel on Davidson Ave., who is interested in stalling charging stations. At the April 23 electric vehicle show there will be several electric motor bikes as well as cars (27 at last count, plus three township vehicles).

River-friendly information: T. Chase spoke with Jim Waltman of the Watershed Institute, who will send a letter for the EC to send to Commissioner McCabe of the DEP in support of early removal of the Blackwells Mills dam.

J. Johnson investigated the possibility of town-wide distribution of reusable shopping bags. There are possible funding sources. A. Schmidt suggested using Clean Communities grant money for reusable bags to be given out at Franklin Day. C. MacIvor moved that J. Johnson be authorized to investigate further funding for reusable bags, straws or other non-plastic items. This was passed. A. Schmidt showed wooden spoons from Finland. The EC might establish a social media

presence to advertise such items. Franklin Township does have a presence on Facebook and other social media.

Coffee and cookies are needed at the electric vehicle show. Several members volunteered to bring cookies.

The tick/Lyme Disease seminar is set. We need to provide for connecting to the projection system. Will it be taped for rebroadcast on Franklin TV? [It will be.]

C. MacIvor suggested that the EC information table at one Saturday of the farmers' market be early in the summer, before it gets hot.

W. Andrews described Girl Scout Gabriella Robinson and her Gold Star environmental projects. C. MacIvor moved, D. Triggs seconded, to invite her to present to the EC on her projects. This was passed.

C. MacIvor reported on the commemoration, with demonstrations, of the Revolutionary War Battle of Bound Brook. P. Walitsky described a potential EC member, living in Canal Walk, who has a web site, [www.fp2w.org](http://www.fp2w.org), advocating zero carbon measures.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM.