

Minutes of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission meeting June 17, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM, and the Sunshine Law Notice read. The roll was called. Present were: W. Andrews, S. Jaracz, J. Johnson, C. MacIvor, D. Pydeski, R. Razani, A. Schmidt, D. Triggs, and P. Walitsky. Council liaison T. Chase arrived at 7:08.

The minutes of the meeting of June 3 were approved.

R. Razani showed her Zero Carbon video Footprint to Wings. There was difficulty getting the sound to the amplification system, solved by placing a dais microphone next to the laptop to pick up its sound.

Considerable discussion followed. It was concluded that more research on what is possible, and on energy use per person in New Jersey, is needed.

There were no plans for review.

The Environmental Commission e-mail address for receipt of questions is up and running. It needs to be publicized on the township web site and in the newsletter. D. Triggs has written a standard reply to queries. It was moved, seconded and approved to publicize the address.

T. Chase mentioned the ANJEC session on single-use plastics, July 23 in Lambertville.

A. Schmidt noted that Dr. Toledo's presentation on ticks and tick-carried diseases has been posted on a local network in answer to a question about ticks. Two recent cases of infection by tick-carried Powassan virus were mentioned.

A. Schmidt attempted to get more information about the compostability of the biodegradable cutlery he showed at the June 3 meeting, without success.

The Environmental Commission presence at the Farmers' Market will not be June 22, maybe June 29. Electric vehicle dealerships are not going to provide driving experience.

T. Chase mentioned having attended the Sustainable Jersey Summit at BellWorks in Holmdel on June 14. He will try to type up and circulate his notes. Electric vehicle dealers, and electric scooter dealers, did provide driving experience at this meeting, which was attended by about 650 people.

P. Walitsky will, with Councilman Galtieri, meet with Philips Electric about their Smart Cities program.

R. Razani attended a webinar on solar cell installation for farms. J. Johnson noted that preserved farms are limited to producing 110% of the electricity they use on site (i.e. they cannot convert more of their farmland to solar cell installations).

W. Andrews suggested that EC members make a practice of circulating to others useful environmental information they find on line.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.