

Minutes of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission meeting February 3, 2020

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, A. Schmidt, P. Walitsky. Absent: R. Razani, R. Suydam (excused). C. MacIvor informed the chair that she will be absent from the March and April meetings, when she will be out of state.

Chair's report: the Commission received a number of letters concerning wetlands delineation (and one from Len Wolgast & Cathy Blumig opposing the delineation for the warehouse development between Bennetts Lane and Veronica Ave., on the basis of presence of threatened and special concern species.)

The minutes of Jan. 13 were approved as submitted.

Web site: the schedule of meetings for 2020 is now posted. But all agendas were listed as being for Feb. 3. The August 31 meeting previously approved by the Commission was not shown. The list of members and dates of their appointments, and in some cases biographies, are not up to date.

Plans review: two, including the storage structure projected to replace Frank's Building Supply.

Discussion of the proposed ordinance banning plastic bags, polystyrene foam food service materials, and plastic straws began. A. Schmidt stated that he preferred T. Chase's draft as a starting point over Lou Rainone's. After some discussion, particularly about size of stores, it was decided to address other agenda items first.

Two members of the public being present, the meeting was opened to the public. The public spoke, but with no particular points. The public session was then closed.

Since there is no EC meeting on Feb. 17 (Presidents' Day, building closed) it was suggested to have a special meeting on Feb. 24 to hear the presentation from NJ Water Supply Authority on detention basin retrofitting in Franklin. This was moved, seconded, and approved.

Mayors' Water Challenge – not this year. T. Chase explained the contract with NJ American Water, which contracts the township to buy a certain amount of water, which is more than we currently use; therefore there is no incentive to conserve water.

Some members will attend the ANJEC training session for EC members on March 14.

A. Schmidt reported receiving an e-mail from Linda Powell requesting a resolution restating the EC's opposition to the Transco compressor station, as Transco has filed a new application. J. Johnson retrieved the original resolution, as approved by Council, and will send it to W. Andrews, T. Chase and A. Schmidt.

S. Jaracz is submitting to the township newsletter an article on the April 18 stream clean-up.

The Commission then spent considerable time reviewing, discussing and agreeing on a text for the plastic bag ban ordinance, based on the draft from T. Chase. Some areas remain for discussion at the next meeting, notably plastic tableware.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 PM.