

Minutes of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission virtual meeting August 17, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM, and the Sunshine Law Notice read. The roll was called. Present were: W. Andrews, S. Jaracz, C. MacIvor, R. Razani, R. Suydam, A. Schmidt, and P. Walitsky, and Council liaison T. Chase. D. Pydeski joined at about 7:07 PM. J. Johnson was excused, out of town.

Chair's report: he sent the EC's resolution on environmental justice legislation to Speaker Coughlin, by FAX.

Minutes: A. Schmidt moved to add a sentence at the top of p. 2, concerning the plastic bag ban ordinance: "These changes were unanimously agreed to." T. Chase pointed out that where he had written **More**, expecting a couple of lines of information about the green infrastructure study from Tara Kenyon, he has not received this. An e-mail from Bob Vornlocker mentioned that she was occupied with a serious illness in her immediate family. So he would take out the word **More**; he will supply the information to the Commission if he gets it. With these changes, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Web site/e-mail/social media: nothing new.

Plans: no new plans. The Commission has already commented on the Somerset Hospitality application, postponed from Aug. 19 and to be heard Sept. 2.

Plastic bag ban ordinance: Council does not want to act while meetings are virtual.

R. Suydam had sent a position description for a Sustainability Officer to all (via the EC e-mail), will send it again.

Renewable municipal energy aggregation (or better municipal renewable energy aggregation): same problem as for the plastic bag ban.

Environmental stewardship award list: nearly complete, John Walker to be added for 2007 (for discovering the trichloroethylene in ground water problem in Franklin Park). W. Andrews will add him, send to Bob McQueen for posting on the township web site. It was moved to do this, passed unanimously.

Green infrastructure study: we have heard nothing further from Tara Kenyon, due to an illness in her family. It will not be completed until next year.

Sustainable Jersey: nothing from T. Chase. S. Jaracz reported on an Electric Car Association webinar held jointly with Sustainable Jersey. Diesel buses will be replaced with electric buses in Camden (municipality chosen for environmental justice reasons; funded by Volkswagen money and the BPU.)

Franklin Times article: no news as to when it will next be published. The Commission should prepare an article on energy aggregation, which could also be put on the EC web site. A. Schmidt tried to contact Damianty Chivukula, got no response, she may no longer work for the township.

S. Jaracz moved to open the meeting to the public; this was seconded and passed. The one member of the public had no comments. The meeting was then closed to the public.

Old Business:

LED street lights: no new information. R. Suydam suggested asking Philips Electric to contribute LED bulbs to the Franklin Food Bank, since there will be no Franklin Day this year. P. Walitsky reported that Philips is pulling back in the U.S., no longer makes bulbs here. He will talk to Frank Hasner, suggesting that the Food Bank apply directly to Philips for a donation.

Underground utilities: T. Chase reported that Mark Healey says that utilities are now routinely placed underground in new developments, therefore he sees no need for an ordinance. R. Suydam is reaching out to find ordinances; ANJEC does not know of any. She has observed existing utilities being put underground in Wyoming. Who pays for this? How much does it cost?

Stream clean-up (still planned for Sept. 26): S. Jaracz wants to know whether the township approves of having it and whether it will pick up the collected garbage. The Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership is still interested, although Rutgers Environmental Stewards cannot participate.

Storm water management ordinance (required by the state by next March): T. Chase believes that Carl Hauck is working on updating the township's ordinance. The Watershed Institute has a model ordinance, recommending including redevelopment projects and requiring stormwater management for even smaller areas of disturbance; ANJEC is working on a model ordinance.

BPU Energy Planning Grant: R. Razani and R. Suydam have been working on this. R. Razani will make a presentation at the next EC meeting.

Analysis of township vehicle use: no response yet from the township. S. Jaracz has talked with a councilwoman in West Windsor about electric vehicles; they purchased only a few because their code officials wouldn't use them.

S. Jaracz pressed for information from the township as to who uses our electric vehicles and what savings accrue. D. Pydeski noted that as a health inspector for Montgomery Township she could have used such a vehicle $\frac{3}{4}$ of the time. The EC could ask these questions at a Council meeting. T. Chase will ask Bob Vornlocker again, cc to EC members. Data is desired on gas vehicles also, the better to suggest who *could* use electric vehicles. A Sustainability Officer could collect this information. W. Andrews suggested writing an article on this for publication in the Franklin Reporter.

R. Suydam and P. Walitsky are looking into green roofs.

T. Chase, A. Schmidt and S. Jaracz reported on visits to Three Mile Run (Chase) and Raritan Brook in the area of the Ukrainian Cathedral (Schmidt and Jaracz). Neither had enough litter to justify a full EC clean-up.

C. MacIvor moved to open the meeting to the public again. The public (Bill Bowman) had no comments. The meeting was closed to the public.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM. It (this webex meeting) was recorded; where does the recording go?