

## **Minutes of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission meeting, July 15, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM, and the Sunshine Law Notice read. The roll was called. Present were: W. Andrews, T. Chase, E. Pires, A. Schmidt, R. Suydam, E. Vastola, P. Walitsky, and sustainability coordinator T. Kenyon. Absent: S. Jaracz (out of the country), M. Santiago. Council liaison E. Potosnak arrived at 7:35 PM.

Chair's report: three companies have submitted new bids for offshore wind power generation. A Canal Walk resident has created a pollinator garden (protected from landscapers). He recognized E. Vastola as a new member (alternate #2) of the Commission, with R. Suydam moving up to full member.

Minutes of July 1: A. Schmidt suggested several corrections, mostly typographic but characterizing his email to the Board of Education about anti-idling signs as "suggesting" rather than "challenging". With these corrections the minutes were approved.

The meeting was opened to the public. No one spoke. The meeting was closed to the public.

Correspondence: T. Kenyon will be handling emails to the Commission from now on. P. Walitsky reported that no letters had been received.

Armaan Agrawal, a rising senior at Princeton Day School, presented his project to empower schools, small businesses, etc. to adopt sustainable practices. He would provide information and tools and direct them to incentives for sustainable practices. He could assign scores for various practices, to encourage adopting the most far-reaching. He would have a student-led task force and a senior advisory group.

R. Suydam suggested he work through the Franklin Township Chamber of Commerce, who could direct him to businesses most likely to work with him. T. Kenyon suggested that he could obtain information from the NJ Sustainable Business registry. A. Schmidt suggested that he could become a 'youth member' of the EC, with voice but no vote.

Site plans: T. Kenyon showed a plan from Jam-Jam Construction to subdivide a lot on William St. in East Millstone to allow construction of an additional residence. On examination the plan appeared to have conflicting details about the subdivision, so it was not considered further.

Promotional and educational materials for tabling events were not discussed, since neither S. Jaracz nor M. Santiago, members of the Education Committee, were present.

T. Kenyon reported a request for the EC to support and participate in World Water Day (which in March 25 of every year). Participation typically involves stream clean-ups.

Community Energy Plan: Council passed a resolution of support at its July 9 meeting. T. Kenyon is not yet ready to make a public presentation about the plan. R. Suydam suggested that she do this as a separate event (not just an EC meeting) at the library in September.

The annual ANJEC Congress will be held on Sept. 27 at the Burlington County campus of Rowan University. The EC has a budget with funds to pay the attendance fees for a couple of members.

There were no subcommittee reports.

P. Walitsky suggested that the township could get a grant from Ridewise for paving a stretch of roadway (pathway?) at the Weston Canal Rd. – Weston Rd. – Manville Causeway intersection, currently being redesigned by Somerset County.

There was no new information from the micromobility study, or on green infrastructure at Naaman Willams Park.

Sustainable Jersey – PSE&G Partners in Energy Efficiency program: a video with the mayor (and, R. Suydam suggested, a young person) should be shot.

R. Suydam reported on the Skip the Stuff ordinance (a model ordinance provided by ANJEC), which would direct providers and transporters of take-out food not to automatically send plastic cutlery with orders, only when requested.

R. Suydam reported on possible digitizing the Environmental Resource Inventory to be more interactive and searchable, as Readington Township has done. Princeton Hydro would charge \$13,000 for basic digitizing, \$19,000 with editing and updating (she showed their proposal).

A. Schmidt asked whether township Information Technology can tell us how many visits there have been to the EC's web page, even to its various parts.

The meeting was opened to the public. No one commented. The meeting was closed to the public, and adjourned at 8:13 PM.