

Franklin Township Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM and the Sunshine Law notice read. The roll was called. Present were: W. Andrews, J. Clyde, C. MacIvor, A. Schmidt, D. Triggs, A. Vernick, P. Walitsky. T. Chase (Council liaison) arrived at 7:18. Absent: D. Pydeski.

Rick Antes and Lola Bobrowski of the New Jersey Water Supply Authority presented plans for a rain barrel workshop, focusing on the area along DeMott Lane which drains into the D&R Canal by the Van Wickle House. The Authority has been studying the 11 miles of the canal from New Brunswick upstream; in that stretch there are 72 outfalls draining surface water into the canal. They want to reduce surface flow (which picks up contaminants) into the canal to improve water quality, since the city of New Brunswick draws water from the canal.

They aim to recruit 25 residents to construct rain barrels at a workshop. The cost for all materials would be \$35. The suggested date for the workshop is March 24 (Saturday), and the suggested location is the Community/Senior center. They would need access to the Center the day before in order to deliver the materials. A. Vernick will contact Alice Osipowitz to see if we can have the workshop there on that date. Another workshop would be held later in the spring for residents of the Cedar Grove Brook watershed.

The Environmental Commission will post notice of the workshop on the web site, but NJWSA will send direct mail to the 277 homes in the targeted watershed.

Chair's report: A. Vernick presented the plaque to Barbara Beringer at the Jan. 24 Council meeting. He has submitted the Annual Report for 2011. A number of Hazardous Substance Release reports were received. The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association (SBMWA) has reported that all slots for clean-ups on the morning of April 21 (our preferred date) are taken. We will seek to do ours on April 28 in the morning. John Clyde will contact SBMWA about this date. What stream to clean up is yet to be determined.

The minutes of the meeting of January 9 were approved. The needed corrections to the meeting schedule on the web site have been made.

The Green Team (for Sustainable Jersey) is scheduled to meet on the morning of Feb. 7, to discuss starting a Community Visioning process.

The proposal to redirect CDBG funds to the community garden in Naaman Williams Park have been sent to Deborah Mitchell, CDBG coordinator. It was questioned whether the school system is aware that we gave our Environmental Stewardship Award to Audra Wood, teacher at Pine Grove School who started the student garden there and we hope will supervise the community garden there.

John Walker reported on plans for the Naaman Williams Park garden in 2012. The CDBG funds will pay for a water line to the garden (to be designed by the Engineering Dept.) and an overhead sprinkler system. Six more plots can be established by cutting down the central walkway. He hopes in the future to expand the garden. The most readily available direction to do this would be into the woods; opposition was expressed to removing trees. He will also install a single 200-gallon water tank into which garden users can dip vessels for hand watering of their plots. If there is any money left over after installing the watering system, it will be used to build a modular shed for storage of garden tools.

The 2012 Goals and Objectives were reviewed. A. Schmidt suggested that we could get Cathy Blumig to deliver a seminar on bee keeping, but she is not available until early 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.