

**Franklin Township Environmental Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 5, 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, D. Pydeski, A. Schmidt, D. Triggs, A. Vernick, and P. Walitsky; Council liaison T. Chase; and former member John Walker. J. Clyde arrived at 7:40. Absent: C. MacIvor.

Chair's report: ANJEC is running a seminar March 15 on regulatory tools to protect water quality. Two wetland modification permit requests and two hazardous release reports were received.

The minutes of the meeting of Feb. 6 were approved. No inquiries were received at the web site.

The rain barrel seminar for residents of the DeMott Lane area is set for March 31, at 10 AM in the municipal building. Rick Antes of NJWRA is hoping for 25 participants, at \$38 each. The barrels will be dropped off Friday at 2 PM; they will be stored in the Council chambers until the next day.

T. Chase explained why the Council has introduced an ordinance allowing a digital billboard on the Rotoclip property facing I-287. The Commission discussed this. A. Schmidt will look for the Commission's prior resolution against billboards.

Stream clean-up: is set for April 28. Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association has suggested doing the canal towpath from East Millstone to Weston Causeway. The clean-up is currently scheduled for the morning; this may be at the same time as the Open Space Committee's invasive plant removal at Negri-Nepote Grasslands. The Commission's clean-up might therefore have to be switched to the afternoon. It was subsequently determined that there is no conflict, and the clean-up will therefore be held in the morning.

T. Chase brought up the possibility of video recording of the clean-up by the volunteer videography group. The commission would be willing to have this done. It was observed that volunteers may have to sign a release for being recorded and eventually shown on the township's TV channel; however, they already sign a release for insurance purposes.

Six plans were reviewed; one other is being held for the next meeting.

Sustainable Jersey: T. Chase reported on the call to nominate two members of the EC to serve on the Green Team. Action was deferred until the next meeting (pending appointment of a new member).

Community gardens: Audra Wood will not be able to supervise the Pine Grove School garden this year. No one has been able to get any response from Gene Unger. J. Walker will talk to the principal of the school in search of a possible replacement.

The shift of the CDBG grant from the Pine Grove School garden to the Naaman Williams garden will be before Council on March 27. J. Walker reported on planning of the water line and irrigation system for that garden. After Council approval, Engineering will design the system and put its construction out for bid (not strictly necessary, but may save money). Walker passed out plans for the revised garden, with added plots replacing the central walkway. J. Clyde suggested recruiting a garden supervisor from among the congregation of the First Baptist Church. Walker discussed the plans for the water lines, the reservoir for water dipping, and the new plots. He also brought up the new fertilizer regulations.

J. Walker brought up the existence of a waste drainage pipe out the back of the Raceway station on Rte 27. This was not a problem so long as the bays were not rented (for the last 6 years), but now they are in use. He is concerned that the County Health Dept. should be aware of this. D. Triggs will call the appropriate person. Walker described the need for testing well water on Central Ave. in Franklin Park. One home whose well water tested positive for contaminants still is not hooked up to the township water. The water line runs up Central to the old Franklin Park School and back down Hillview Ave., but few homes are hooked up to it.

The Commission went into executive session to interview individually the three candidates for the vacant alternate member position. Chairman Vernick will write a letter to the township clerk summarizing the Commission's recommendation.