

**Franklin Township Environmental Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 2, 2012**

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. Biercz, C. MacIvor, A. Schmidt, D. Triggs, A. Vernick, P. Walitsky; and Council liaison T. Chase. D. Pydeski arrived at 7:08. J. Clyde was absent. Former member J. Walker arrived at 7:48.

Chair's report: one clean-up notice received from DEP. The minutes of March 19 were approved, after one question. There was nothing new at the web site, and there were no plans for review. W. Andrews attended the ANJEC conference for new Environmental Commissioners and was impressed by national environmental maps.

Rain Barrel seminar: unfortunately turnout was low – four rain barrels were taken, by three people. The Water Supply Authority would like to do another (for the Cedar Grove Brook watershed?) How can people in the watershed area be reached more effectively? Through the schools? There is a high school environmental club, but they never attend Commission meetings; only two came to the Open Space work day at Negri-Nepote grassland on Sunday (April 1). The rain barrel seminar was videotaped by volunteers from the Cable TV Committee's project.

The Commission unanimously approved the resolution against the ordinance allowing digital billboards, to be sent to the Council (despite the Council's withdrawal of the ordinance).

Community gardens: the resolution transferring the CDBG grant to the Naaman Williams Park garden was approved by Council. J. Walker reported meeting with the principal of Pine Grove School, about the garden there; the principal offered no help toward managing the garden, but J. Walker and A. Vernick will meet with her on April; 20 at 4 PM. Walker reported that the garden itself is in good shape. He has been trying to meet with Tom Zilinek about design of the water system at the Naaman Williams Park garden. It appears that a mechanical control for the water system will not be sufficient, and electrical control will be necessary. An electrical line could be run from a nearby light.

The Raceway gas station in Franklin Park was inspected by someone from the county Health Dept. They could not reach J. Walker to join them, and did not detect a problem with the pipe out the back of the building to which J. Walker says the floor drain is connected. The Health Dept. should be queried as to whether they asked how Raceway and its lessee treat their waste materials, and where the floor drain in the building leads. Walker reiterated the need for testing of well water from the Central Ave. area for trichloroethylene and other volatile organics.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.