

Franklin Township Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 4, 2012

The meeting was called to order and the Sunshine Law notice read at 7:10 PM. The roll was called. Present were: W. Andrews, T. Biercz, C. MacIvor, A. Schmidt, A. Vernick, P. Walitsky; and Council liaison T. Chase. J. Clyde arrived at 7:13. Absent: D. Pydeski and D. Triggs. Guest J. Walker arrived at 7:25.

Chair's report: A. Vernick explained constraints on the videography of the June 18 meeting, as communicated by Victory Chase. Two Hazardous Substance Release reports were received from the DEP. He has sent the call for nomination for the Environmental Stewardship awards to Joyce Miller for the September newsletter. He received a notice from ANJEC concerning materials available about access to the lower Raritan River. He will ask them for these materials on access points. T. Chase mentioned having photographed access possibilities at the Five Mile lock (by I-287) and sent the pictures to Kerry Miller of ANJEC. Vernick also mentioned having received notices from the Somerset County Planning Board about meetings concerning Priority Preservation Investment Areas, June 18 and 28.

The minutes of May 20 were approved. No messages were received at the web site, nor were changes made. Three plans were reviewed – two signs and expansion of Cedar Hill Prep School.

Community Gardens: Deborah Mitchell, who supervises the Community Development Block Grant, wants to meet with J. Walker and A. Vernick concerning progress at the Naaman Williams Park garden. (The grant must be spent by Sept. 1.) J. Walker reported on the situation at this garden. Johnny Tibbs has reported that all existing plots have been taken for use. Engineering still has not generated plans for the water line, which are needed if it is to be bid out. The water line to the pump house (from which the water line to the garden would be run, and from which water for the dipping tank was drawn) is currently turned off. Walker will meet with Victor Stevens June 5 to get it turned on. Walker has purchased the wood for new plots (in the center aisle), which is sitting there, and he wonders whether he will be reimbursed for this purchase.

About one quarter of the plots at the Pine Grove Manor School are being used, without any supervising authority. T. Chase saw Eugene Unger on May 28; Unger said he had been unable to find anyone to take over management of this garden.

J. Clyde reported from the Raritan-Millstone Flood Control Commission. Manville residents expressed concern about possible effects on them of raising the levee at Zarephath (currently under stop-work order, pending obtaining a soil transport permit). A consultant suggested to the Commission that they might apply for a Sustainable Jersey grant to do a study of land use and zoning upstream aimed at reducing run-off and downstream flooding. Since Manville is not even registered with Sustainable Jersey,

Franklin would be an appropriate applicant. He will put them in touch with T. Chase about this.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.