

Franklin Township Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2012

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

Chair's report: A letter was received concerning a permit for replacement of the South Middlebush Road bridge over Six Mile Run. A. Vernick reported on the Sustainable Raritan annual meeting on June 14, which he and T. Chase attended. He showed posters concerning river access received from ANJEC's River Access Plan. D. Triggs will try to have them put up in the township library.

Minutes: A. Schmidt recommended that John Walker should be identified as "guest". With this change, the minutes were approved. Web site: nothing new.

One site plan was received, for a (non-digital) billboard on the RotorClip property on the south side of I-287. Lighting would be two 400-watt lights shining down from the top on each face. The Commission recommended cut-off lights to prevent light going directly up into the sky.

The 2012 Goals and Objectives were discussed. Many have been carried out. Arrangements should be made for the seminars on bee-keeping and Christmas tree recycling. An article on the community gardens, with a plea for a manager for the Pine Grove Manor School garden, should be sent to the newsletter. J. Walker will write this.

P. Walitsky recommended that the illuminated EXIT signs in the municipal building, which are on 24 hrs/day, be replaced with light-emitting diode signs. The cost is \$15.99/sign on the Internet, and the payback is approximately six months.

Community gardens: A. Vernick and J. Walker met with Deborah Mitchell (administrator of the township's Community Development Block Grant) to report on spending of the grant for the Naaman Williams Park garden. J. Walker has received a complete set of plans (5 pages) for an irrigation system, with spray head risers, for the garden from Scott Thomas, Engineering Dept. Requests for quotes will be sent to appropriate contractors in the area (not formal bids). If all quotes exceed the money available (\$5500), we will go to a simple pipe with multiple hose outlets (such as at the Pine Grove Manor School garden). Thus it should be possible to finish the work by mid-August (funds must be spent by Aug. 31).

C. MacIvor reported that the rose garden in Colonial Park is the largest in New Jersey.

T. Chase reported on the proposal to the Raritan-Millstone Flood Control Commission for a grant to study township master plans and zoning ordinances for possible reduction of run-off to ameliorate flooding.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM.