

**Franklin Township Environmental Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 15, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM and the Sunshine Law notice read. The roll was called. Present were: C. MacIvor, A. Schmidt, D. Triggs, A. Vernick, and P. Walitsky; and Council liaison T. Chase. Absent: W. Andrews, T. Biercz, D. Pydeski; J. Clyde arrived at 7:35.

Chair's report: two letters of notice of request for an LOI were received from the Franklin Board of Education (for Elizabeth Avenue and Hillcrest Schools); a multi-permit application from New Jersey Water Supply Authority, for the canal dredging; a notice of request for a LOI for property on Worlds Fair Drive; general permit applications for 65 Clyde Rd and a property on Veronica Ave.

T. Chase brought up the opportunity to apply for a Sustainable Jersey small grant (he had notice from Mark Healey that the township's grant consultant brought this up). He suggested applying for bins to collect soft plastic (see minutes of the June 17 meeting). A. Vernick suggested we form, or have the township form, a committee on community gardens – those now existing, and further gardens to be established. It was suggested that the grant could fund a part-time employee to manage the gardens; but such grants do not provide ongoing support for positions. The commission discussed finding people for such a committee. We will put a notice in the next township newsletter, seeking volunteers. If we get people, T. Chase will pursue formal township status.

The minutes of the June 17 meeting were approved. Nothing new at the web site; A. Schmidt will put up a notice of the upcoming (July 25) rain barrel seminar.

One plan was reviewed. There was no Sustainable Jersey news, other than the grant program.

The seminar on Wild Turkeys is set for October, and we will have one on bees in March.

Community gardens; T. Chase reported that Johnny Tibbs got a Home News-Tribune reporter to the Naaman Williams Park garden on July 3; a story will appear soon. The garden is looking very good, plants having grown up since a previous visit in early June. Users are requesting that more plots be laid out (not all space has been defined with boards, though additional boards are there) and eventually the garden be expanded.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM.