

Franklin Township Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM, and the Sunshine Law notice read. The roll was called. Present were: W. Andrews, T. Biercz, C. MacIvor, D. Pydeski, D. Triggs, A. Vernick, P. Walitsky; and guest J. Walker. T. Chase (Council liaison) arrived at 7:15, and J. Clyde at 7:48. Absent: A. Schmidt.

Chair's report: Four hazardous substance release reports were received from DEP. A. Vernick, T. Chase and Director of Planning Mark Healey attended a meeting with county planning staff concerning Priority Preservation/Protection Investment areas and Access and Mobility Improvement projects. Suggested sites for the latter are the Nora shopping center and John's Plaza on Hamilton St.

A. Vernick communicated with Chris Kelly, chair of the Advisory Board of Health, regarding a possible joint meeting of the two committees, which we have not had for several years. Vernick suggested doing this at one of the Commission's regularly scheduled meetings in October or November. In the meantime topics for discussion will be developed.

D. Triggs sought to have the Sustainable Raritan posters put up in the library. They could display only one at any given time, will rotate the three posters.

The video of the June 18 meeting could be shown on the township's government access channel (29) later this month.

T. Chase brought up the need for new Commission members on the Green Team (and for actions we can do for recertification). C. MacIvor and P. Walitsky volunteered for the Green Team.

The minutes of the June 18 meeting were approved. Nothing has been received at the web site (per e-mail from A. Schmidt).

Four site plans were reviewed.

J. Walker reported on plans for irrigation at the Naaman Williams Park garden. One bid has been received for the spray irrigation system designed by the Engineering Dept.; however, the bidder noted that the plans did not include anything concerning electrical service (which presumably would be needed for a water meter, as desired by Engineering). Walker now considers that such an elaborate irrigation system is not really necessary. A pipe run underground to the garden from the pool water line, surfacing within the garden with 3-4 hose connections, with hoses to reach all parts of the garden for hand-held watering, would be sufficient (and might actually result in less water use). The township's commitment to run this line to the garden, etc., needs to be clarified. A meeting with Township Engineer Tom Zilinek, Director of Public Works Victor Stevens,

Assistant Engineer Scott Thomas and the township's water engineer is urgently needed. Walker will call Zilinek tomorrow to set up such a meeting ASAP. A. Vernick and T. Chase will also attend.

The garden could be managed by RPM's on site superintendent in the senior apartment building.

If there is sufficient money left in the CDB grant, Walker would like to have a shed in the garden for storage of tools.

D. Triggs reported concerning the Commission's objective to institute Integrated Pest Management in the schools: the county health dept. has already met with the high school concerning this, could similarly meet with staff at the other schools.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.