

Franklin Township Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2013

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, D. Pydeski, A. Schmidt, A. Vernick, and P. Walitsky; and Council liaison T. Chase. Absent: J. Clyde, D. Triggs.

Chair's report: two notices of plans to do work in flood hazard areas were received.

Minutes of the Aug. 5 meeting: A. Schmidt suggested a slight addition concerning the issue of by-laws. With this change, the minutes were approved.

Two site plans were reviewed. Nothing has happened with respect to Sustainable Jersey, but it is time to have a Green Team meeting.

Community Gardens: the role of the proposed Community Gardens Committee was discussed. (The call for volunteers for this committee will not appear in the upcoming township newsletter.) Gardeners at Naaman Williams Park have requested training sessions on gardening. This could be done either at Home Depot (which runs training sessions for users of their materials) or through Rutgers Agricultural Extension.

The Environmental Commission is now sharing a mailbox with the Shade Tree Commission.

P. Walitsky described the success of his solar cell installation, which generally meets all his electricity needs. Many homes in Canal Walk are installing solar cells. However, in the event of natural disaster causing downing of power transmission lines, it must be shut down for the safety of workers on the lines. It is possible (at greater expense) to direct power from the solar cells to a battery, which then can supply power even when the cell installation must be disconnected from the electric grid.

The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, Sept. 9, the second Monday of the month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.