

Franklin Township Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM, and the Sunshine Law notice read. The roll was called. Present were: W. Andrews, J. Clyde, C. MacIvor, D. Pydeski, A. Schmidt, D. Triggs, A. Vernick, and P. Walitsky; and Council liaison T. Chase. Absent: T. Biercz (getting married).

Chair A. Vernick reported on an OPRA request for anything the Commission might know about the site for a proposed school at 2 Riverview Drive (off Apgar, in the northwestern part of the township). The Commission has no record of any environmental concerns about the site, but notes the presence of heavy truck traffic and the possibility of being cut off by flooding. Vernick reported on the prospects of sharing a mailbox with the Shade Tree Commission, and brought up for preliminary discussion the 2014 calendar of meetings. It was felt that one meeting in August would be sufficient, as well as one meeting in January, February, July and September (when one meeting Monday is a holiday) and December. Since December 2014 begins on a Monday, the single December meeting might be Dec. 15 instead of Dec. 1.

The minutes of the meeting of Aug. 19 were approved. Nothing new from the web site, but a notice of the upcoming seminar on Wild Turkeys (Oct. 21) should be posted.

One plan, for a gas station plus stores at the intersection of Hamilton St. and Veronica Ave., was reviewed. It was felt that the proposal would overdevelop the site, particularly with respect to impervious coverage.

There was no news concerning Sustainable Jersey. The Commission was asked to come up with ideas for Environmental Stewardship awards.

T. Chase reported on videography of the community gardens, and developments at the Pine Grove Manor School garden. Volunteers from a church group erected new chain link fences; and the principal organizer is moving out of town. P. Walitsky reported on the success of the buyer-funded garden at Catalpa.

There was no new business. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM.