

**Franklin Township Environmental Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 19, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM, 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. J. Clyde arrived at 7:27 PM.

Chair's report: three Hazardous Substance Release notices were received from the DEP; two were spills from transformers. A. Vernick attended the ANJEC (Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions) annual Environmental Congress on Oct. 20. The theme was 'The Clean Water Act at 40'. A. Vernick was appointed to the ANJEC advisory council. ANJEC thought we hadn't paid our annual dues, but it was proven that we had.

There is an 'environmental investigation' of the stream in Colonial Park, west of Mettlers Rd, posted Nov. 5. A. Vernick contacted Adam Slutsky of the Somerset County Dept. of Public Works, who informed him that the project is removal of contaminated sediment. It took several years to get all the required permits.

The minutes of the Nov. 5 meeting were approved. There was nothing new on the web site. One plan was reviewed – expansion of a house.

Community Gardens: John Tibbs reported on management of the community garden in Naaman Williams Park. He has a lady (Kyle Smith) in charge and four senior citizens who occasionally clear the weeds. Some plots are used by senior citizens in wheelchairs, who need assistance in cultivating their plots. Most plots were used in 2012, except for four requested but not used by the Recreation Dept. Most plots have already been signed up for 2013. J. Tibbs requests support for two senior citizens, 10 hrs/week, \$8/hr, to maintain the garden, funds to be obtained from the Community Development Block Grant. This could possibly be extended to the garden at Pine Grove Manor School and the proposed garden at Martin St. and Norma Ave. The cost (for one garden) would be approx. \$4000/year. He has spoken to Deborah Mitchell (CDBG grant administrator) about this; A. Vernick will check with her whether this is an appropriate expenditure for the CDBG. There is wood for laying out additional plots, which would be a capital project (paying individuals to do this).

D. Triggs mentioned his search for someone to advise Boy Scouts for Environmental Science merit badges. A. Schmidt reported that the annual Open Space Committee Christmas dinner (to which members of related committees are invited) will be Dec. 18.

A. Vernick mentioned the members' expiring terms. He will write Ann Marie McCarthy that they wish to be reappointed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 PM.

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