

Franklin Township Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM and the Sunshine Law notice read. The roll was called. Present were: W. Andrews, T. Biercz, J. Clyde, D. Pydeski, A. Schmidt, D. Triggs, A. Vernick, P. Walitsky; and Council liaison T. Chase. Absent: C. MacIvor. Former member John Walker arrived at 7:30 PM.

A. Vernick had little Chair's Report to present. He and A. Schmidt watched the Channel 29 broadcast of the June 18 meeting. J. Clyde asked when the video of the April clean-up would be shown.

The minutes of the meeting of August 6 were approved. A. Schmidt asked whether the water line to the community garden at Naaman Williams Park would be blown out before winter.

There were no messages at the Commission web site.

One plan was reviewed, for the Genesis redevelopment of the bank building at Franklin Blvd and Hamilton St., now owned by First Baptist Community Development Corp. Some question was raised about the use of *Ginkgo biloba* as a street tree; flowers of one of the sexes of this tree have an unpleasant smell, and fallen leaves are slippery when wet. However, this is an improvement over the previously suggest honey locust, which provides only a thin shade.

Community gardens: J. Walker reported that the township Public Works Dept. has run a water line from the line to the Naaman Williams Park pool up to the edge of the garden. Spring Irrigation of South Brunswick has been awarded the contract, for a price of \$3230, to complete installation of the irrigation system, and the purchase order has been issued. The work *will* be completed by Aug. 30 (deadline for the Community Development Block Grant). The lines will be copper, four feet deep. The system will include automatic purging of the riser, back to the shut-off valve. The riser will have three taps for hoses (the hoses have been purchased). The township will install a meter on the line.

J. Walker has found a prefabricated shed, for tool storage, which will cost \$400; some assembly required. He will install footings for the corners of the shed. The water line riser will come up inside the shed, for security. A 50 gallon water tank, with a tap for filling watering cans, will also be installed.

T. Chase reported on a conversation with Randy Solomon of Sustainable Jersey concerning requirements for recertification (for which the township is due in a year's time).

J. Walker noted that Council introduced an ordinance amending the soil importation permit requirement. T. Chase explained the changes: the substances tested for have been changed to comply with current state requirements; a test is required for each 1000 cubic yards of soil imported rather than 500 (which makes the requirement less onerous); and no test is required for material received from a registered quarry.

A. Vernick reminded the Commission that the next meeting, the only one in September, will be Sept. 10 (because of Labor Day).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.