

**Franklin Township Environmental Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**December 2, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM, and the Sunshine Law notice read. The roll was called. Present were: W. Andrews, J. Clyde, C. MacIvor, A. Schmidt, D. Triggs, A. Vernick, T. Biercz, P. Walitsky, and Council liaison T. Chase. Absent: D. Pydeski.

Chair's report: members' wishes for reappointment were transmitted to the township clerk. An application for "treatment works" –a 457' foot extension of a sewer line – was received.

The minutes of Nov. 18 were approved. Nothing new at the web site.

Three plans were reviewed, including one for a new, taller cement plant at the Trap Rock Quarry. It is far from other properties, and not a significant contributor to the noise of quarry operations.

A. Schmidt inquired when the bins for recycling of soft plastic will be in operation, so that he can announce it on the web site. Victor Stevens of Public Works and Steve Berkowitz of All American Poly are working on this.

Community gardens: the video of the gardens, now up on the township TV channel, was praised. It could be submitted to Sustainable Jersey in support of our next application for certification. A new coordinator for the garden at Pine Grove Manor School ("Common Ground") has volunteered. The EC will make another effort to establish a community-wide garden committee.

Much complaint was voiced about the extensive and thorough clearing at Middlebush Park. It was felt to be more extensive and complete than shown in plans approved by Open Space and the Planning Board. All existing trees were removed from a large area, and the new trees that have been planted are small and will take years to establish a significant buffer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM.