

Franklin Township Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM, and the Sunshine Law notice read. The roll was called. Present were: W. Andrews, J. Clyde, A. Schmidt, D. Triggs, and A. Vernick; and Council liaison T. Chase. Absent: T. Biercz, C. MacIvor, D. Pydeski, P. Walitsky.

Chair's report: the Environmental Stewardship awards were given out at the Council meeting on Nov. 25. One notice of application for a wetlands LOI was received, for 4075 Rte. 27 (Kerani Realty; a subdivision and site plan was approved by the Planning Board some years ago, but construction did not take place).

The minutes of the Nov. 17 meeting were approved. Nothing new at the web site; but the 2015 schedule of meetings will be posted soon.

Three plans were reviewed, including a proposal for min-warehouses on Weston Canal Rd. This is the fourth proposal for this site.

Sustainable Jersey: T. Chase reported that our current certification is good until June 2016. He asked that the Environmental Commission look at the Environmental Resource Inventory, to see how much updating they could do. A. Vernick answered that a review of the document a couple of years ago concluded that a consultant would still be needed to complete a revision. He will look for his notes on this. T. Chase also reported on a proposal for energy aggregation and a contact about adopting a Complete Streets plan.

J. Clyde suggested April 18 for the spring stream clean-up. He will contact Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association about their participation on this date. A. Vernick will contact the New Brunswick Environmental Commission about a joint clean-up of Mile Run (Hamilton St. to Somerset St) once a firm date is established.

John Walker reported on progress in the fracking industry. He has the shed for the Naaman Williams Park community garden, and has planned how it should be erected. Since it needs to be anchored in the ground, he feels this should wait until spring. It does not need full footings, but should have cinder blocks under it. He suggested that garden tools could be stored until spring in the pool shed.

J. Walker expressed concern that no general testing of Franklin Park wells has occurred in the last six to eight years. Now that real estate sales are occurring again, well tests mandated upon sale of property could be reviewed to see if there is any pattern of expansion of the solvent contamination of ground water. The county Health Dept. could do this review.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM

