

**Franklin Township Environmental Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 18, 2015**

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

Chair's report: one wetland permit notice received for a NJDOT project on Amwell Road.

A. Vernick discussed four recent activities that have been completed with the Commission's involvement: Mile Run stream cleanup (April 18), rain barrel workshop (April 25), invasive species seminar (May 4), and Alpha Phi Alpha Green Forum (May 16).

A. Vernick proposed that the Commission visit The Willow School in Gladstone, New Jersey to tour the facility and learn about the many environmentally conscious programs and improvements that contributed to the LEED certification. A. Schmidt suggested that the Franklin Township Board of Education also be involved in the tour of The Willow School, as Franklin Township considers construction options for a new school.

The minutes of the May 4 meeting were approved, with one correction to the last name of the executive director of the New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team. Her correct name is Susan Brookman.

No news was reported for the website.

One site plan was reviewed. No significant environmental impacts identified.

Sustainable Jersey: T. Chase discussed the exhibit that he saw concerning the Montgomery Township solar-powered trash compactors, and how he is working to have Franklin Township purchase one of these compactors. T. Chase also discussed the deer population in New Jersey and legislation to allow commercial deer hunting to control the population. The goal would be to build a market for venison. Currently, the estimates for New Jersey are approximately 84 deer per square mile, while a healthy population would be approximately 12 deer per square mile.

Community Gardens: No new information.

A. Vernick discussed the Environmental Stewardship Awards for 2015. A notice will be placed in the Franklin Times newspaper to inform residents that nominations for the awards are to be submitted by the end of September 2015.

T. Biercz informed the Commission that he will be leaving Franklin Township in June, but will continue his role on the Commission until the end of 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.