

Franklin Township Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2010

Sunshine Law

The Sunshine Law was read and the meeting officially commenced at 7:58 P.M.

Roll Call

Present: Arnold Vernick (Chairman), Arnold Schmidt (Vice Chairman), David Triggs, Lawrence Lewis, John Walker, Cecile Maclvor, John Clyde, Paul Walitsky and Dr. Theodore Chase (Council Liaison).

Absent: Dianne Pydeski

Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes for January 18th were approved with minor changes.

Chair Report

A revised Commission member roster was distributed along with a draft annual report. The report was approved with a few minor changes and will be submitted to the Mayor and Council.

Three articles were submitted to the Township Newsletter "Franklin Times." The articles profiled the co-sponsored Green Forum scheduled for April 17th, the community garden and the stream cleanup scheduled for April 24th.

The Countywide Renewable Energy Program was discussed. Chairman Vernick and Council liaison Dr. Ted Chase plan to attend an informational meeting on February 19th in Somerville.

Website

The new member biographies were submitted for inclusion on the Commission website.

Plans Review

Five site plans were reviewed.

Green Forum

Mr. Walter Andrews was in attendance. Some forum issues that still need to be resolved include early building access to set up displays, a plan for where the displays will be, someone designated to run the camera, power point and microphone, advertising on the town website, the Commission website and newsletter (an article has been submitted), a flyer to be prepared by Mr. Andrews, possible coffee and donuts, sign-in, agenda and seminar evaluation, an invite to other local commissions, scouts and ANJEC and a moderator with speaking points (Mr. Andrews has volunteered to be the moderator). Lawrence Lewis will reach out to the Franklin High School Environmental Club.

Community Gardens

John Walker has written an article for the Township Newsletter to be typed and submitted by Arnie Schmidt.

Middlebush Park

Improved fields with lights at the new high school may negate the need for lights at Middlebush Park (although none have been proposed thus far). The Commission continues to receive concerns from local residents regarding the damage to flora and fauna. The Commission believes that the planned fields will not be built on sensitive areas and that the need for active recreation in town outweighs the loss of secondary growth cedar forest where the playing fields are planned.

New Business

John Walker expressed concern regarding MTBE discovered in the drinking water at the "A Bright Beginning Preschool." The levels (96.2 ppb) are above the recommended safe drinking water standard of (70 ppb). Mr. Walker will look into what the response has been.

John Walker expressed concern regarding the ongoing investigation of the Raceway gas station groundwater contamination area. He believes the plume is moving outside the contamination zone and the remediation requirements have been reduced. In addition, a letter from the NJDEP had numerous inaccuracies such as the wrong addresses. Mr. Walker will follow-up.

David Triggs recommended that Dr. Chase seek the Council's nomination of former member Barbra Beringer for a commendation for her many years of dedicated service on the Commission.

Meeting Adjourned

9:20 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

David Triggs, Commission Member